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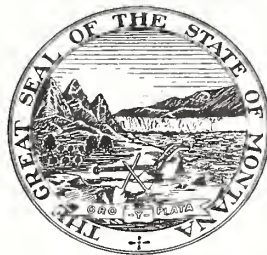
Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003 -- 2007

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MONTANA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2003 TO 2007



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this 2003-2007 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is to outline Montana's five-year plan for outdoor recreation management, conservation and development. It provides the strategic framework for recreation facility managers to use as a guideline in planning and prioritizing resources for staff and funding, and includes a timeline for implementation.

Since 1965, the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program has provided more than \$32 million to Montana for state and local outdoor recreation projects, which are administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), plus an additional \$3.5 billion for projects on federal lands. LWCF is a critical contributor to Montana's quality of life and to its tourism economy (nonresident visitors spent \$1.7 billion in Montana in 2001, making tourism Montana's second largest industry behind agriculture). This Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan describes Montana's supply of public outdoor recreation facilities, trends in demand for those facilities, key outdoor recreation challenges and issues in Montana, and statewide goals, objectives, actions and priorities for enhancing outdoor recreation in the years 2003 to 2007.

SCORP Methodology

In order to determine outdoor recreation supply and demand in Montana, the planning team used a variety of methods and data sets. A statewide online survey of recreation facility managers was conducted in October 2002 to obtain an inventory and assessment of public recreation facilities. To determine demand (level of resident and nonresident need or desire for outdoor recreation facilities, services and programs), the planning team used several recent consumer studies and data trends. The key studies were the Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services; the Montana Resident 1998-1999 Pleasure Travel Survey; the 1999 Report of Recreation Participation Patterns by Montana Residents; and the 2000-2001 Nonresident Visitor Study, all of which were conducted by the University of Montana Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research. Additionally, the planning team reviewed resident/nonresident recreation licensing data trends from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Motor Vehicle Division, and national recreation research from the Travel Industry Association of America, American Recreation Coalition, America Outdoors and the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment. The introductory sections of Chapters 2 and 3 provide further details. Public outreach efforts included a SCORP Advisory Committee, statewide public meetings, a public comment period and targeted contacts made by the planning team to stakeholder groups.

Outdoor Recreation Facility Supply

Recreation Facility Inventory

Montana's land base is 39% state, tribal and federal land (57,346 square miles), and 61% private and municipal (city or county) land. The recreation facility managers who participated in the online survey indicated that they manage nearly 28 million acres of public parks and open space for outdoor recreation. Participant organizations

Executive Summary:

- ♦ Recreation Facility Supply
- ♦ Recreation Demand
- ♦ Issues & Gaps
- ♦ Goals & Strategic Actions



Online Facility Inventory Survey Participant Groups Contacted

- ♦ Montana Cities (Montana League of Cities and Towns)
- ♦ Montana Counties (Montana Association of Counties)
- ♦ School Districts (Montana School District Superintendents)
- ♦ Montana Park & Recreation Association (MRPA)
- ♦ Montana Tribes & Tribal Colleges
- ♦ Montana Colleges & Universities
- ♦ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- ♦ Montana Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation (DNRC)
- ♦ USDA Forest Service
- ♦ Bureau of Land Management
- ♦ US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ♦ National Park Service
- ♦ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ♦ US Bureau of Reclamation



Statewide Trail Miles by Type*

Trail Type	Miles
Walking/Hiking Only	3,645
Bike/Pedestrian	716
Horse/Hiking	16,939
XC Skiing (groomed)	565
OHV (federal only)	4,105
Snowmobile (groomed)	5,594

* Agency estimates of designated system route trails only. Does not include roads or user-created trails.

Source: SCORP Statewide Recreation Facility Manager Survey, October 2002 (see Chapter 2).



also manage nearly 464,000 acres of lakes, 42 state parks, 650+ fishing access sites, 22,000 miles of designated non-motorized trails, and about 9,700 miles of designated motorized trails. Although these figures do not represent all of the public parks and lands in Montana, they do demonstrate the extensive amount of land that is available for outdoor recreation. Additionally, survey participants manage public swimming pools, play fields and courts (baseball, soccer, football, track, tennis, basketball), fairgrounds, golf courses, playgrounds, municipal parks and campgrounds.

Recreation Facility Condition

Many of Montana's most popular public recreation facilities are aging and deteriorating, while others are in good condition. According to the facility managers, public facilities in the poorest overall condition are fairgrounds, tennis courts, off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, horse and hiking trails, and swimming pools. One-third of public swimming pools are in poor or very poor condition, as well as nearly half of tennis courts. Facilities in the best condition are paved bike/pedestrian trails, climbing walls and golf courses. Only 5% of river boat ramps are listed as being in poor condition, and 90% of paved trails are in good or excellent condition. Two-thirds of existing playgrounds are listed in good or excellent condition.

Montana resident surveys reveal that facilities in highest demand are swimming pools, biking and walking trails, fishing facilities, skate parks, ball fields, basketball courts, and camper and RV spaces without hookups.

According to managers, significant percentages of these facilities are in poor condition. It is important that partnerships be formed to identify creative solutions for public facility maintenance and improvements.

Recreation Facility Needs

In the online survey, facility managers indicated that \$95.2 million is needed to fulfill outdoor recreation facility needs. Clearly, existing facilities are in need of attention: there were three times more survey responses for facilities needing upgrades or repairs than for new land acquisition, and 25% more responses for upgrades or repairs than for new construction. At the local level, facility needs mentioned most frequently were swimming pools, ball fields, playgrounds, fairgrounds, bike/pedestrian trails and skate parks. Key state and federal needs included upgrades to fishing access sites, motorized and non-motorized trails, parks, boating facilities, campgrounds and interpretive facilities. A significant number of survey participants also expressed needs related to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance at existing facilities. However, the funds required to fulfill all of the facility needs far exceed the available local, state or federal resources.

In the BRFSS survey of Montana residents, the activity most in need of additional sites or facilities at the county level was swimming, followed by biking, fishing, walking, skateboarding, field sports, basketball and camping. There are striking similarities in the needs reported by BRFSS respondents (citizens), and those reported by recreation facility managers in the online survey. In both surveys, community-based recreation facilities for swimming, biking, walking, skateboarding and field games were ranked highly. Rural recreation facilities were needed for fishing, hiking, biking, boating and camping.

To adequately maintain and enhance Montana's supply of outdoor recreation facilities, managers face a number of challenges, including an increasing demand for recreational facilities and services, and a human population aging faster than the national average. Moreover, managers are experiencing rising costs for management and maintenance of their facilities, declining state and federal recreation budgets, and the need for additional or alternative sources of funding.

Outdoor Recreation Demand

Montana Demographic Trends

According to the 2000 U.S. census, Montana is home to 902,195 citizens, which is an increase of 103,130 (13%) since 1990. Most of the growth took place in western and south central Montana counties, while most of eastern Montana's counties lost population over the decade. The changes have caused increased demand for recreation facilities in high growth areas, and decreased ability to pay for existing facilities in areas that have lost residents (taxpayers). Nearly one-in-five Montanans will be age 65+ in all but seven counties by 2025. As the population ages, there is likely to be less demand for strenuous outdoor recreation activities, and more demand for activities like walking, golf, fishing and motorized recreation.

Fifty years ago, Montana had one of the highest per capita income rates in the nation, and now it has one of the lowest at \$17,151, which is 58% below the national average. However, according to University of Montana research, Montanans take more leisure trips than the U.S. average. Some residents appear to be willing to accept lower wages as a trade-off for quality of life: in Montana, they have more opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The implications of the demographic data about Montanans are that outdoor recreation managers need to focus not only on facilities and programs for youth (29% of the population) and young adults (34% of the population), but increasingly for mature adults (38% of the population and growing). Because of Montana's struggling economy and low income population, affordability of outdoor recreation is a key issue, as is the limited ability of businesses and citizens to pay higher taxes for it. This is one area where tourism benefits Montana: nonresidents help pay for outdoor recreation facilities and programs. Montana's recreation facility managers need to provide more opportunities for visitors to spend money to support enhanced facilities and services.

Montanans' Recreation Habits and Concerns

Resident research conducted by the University of Montana Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research (ITRR) found that Montana households with higher incomes and Montana households with children are more likely to be active in recreation activities. Overall, the study showed that the most popular outdoor recreation activities are walking, wildlife watching, attending sporting events, hiking, biking, attending festivals, swimming, picnicking, nature photography, fishing, motorcycling, hunting, camping, golfing, horseback riding and boating (see sidebar). The results of the ITRR study are similar to the BRFSS survey in that walking, wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, swimming and fishing are popular outdoor recreation activities among Montanans. These findings also are consistent with the survey of facility managers, who expressed needs for trails, parks and open space, swimming pools and fishing/boating facilities to fulfill recreation needs.

Overall Recreation Activity Participation of Montana Households 1998-99

Activity	%
Walking	75%
Recreational Shopping	53%
Wildlife Watching	52%
Attending Sporting Events	47%
Day Hiking	37%
Biking	35%
Attending Festivals	34%
Swimming	32%
Picnicking	31%
Attending Performances	29%
Participate in Sporting Events	29%
Nature Photography	29%
Visiting Museums	29%
Visiting Interpretive Centers	28%
Fishing (other than fly)	27%
Gambling	24%
Visiting Art Galleries	24%
Motorcycling	22%
Visiting Native American Sites	19%
Hunting	18%
Camping - Tent	18%
Golfing	16%
Horseback Riding	15%
Visiting Attractions	14%
Fly Fishing	13%
Boating - Motorized	13%
Camping - Vehicle	13%
Backpacking	12%
Boating - Nonmotorized	11%
Sledding	11%
ATV/Off-road Recreation	10%
Downhill Skiing	10%
Snowmobiling	7%
Water Skiing	6%
Cross Country Skiing	5%
Ice Fishing	5%
Snowboarding	4%
Snowshoeing	2%

Source: ITRR Report 68



MT Nonresident Traveler Activities

Activity	# Visitors	%
Shopping	3,606,030	18.6
Wildlife watching	2,697,678	13.9
Day Hiking	2,401,564	12.4
Picnicking	1,954,901	10.1
Camping (devlp)	1,632,460	8.4
Fishing	1,208,550	6.2
Nature Study	847,366	4.4
Gambling	785,264	4.1
Camping (undevelp)	704,911	3.6
Golfing	478,241	2.5
Rafting/Floating	425,728	2.2
Sporting Event	345,092	1.8
Backpacking	296,796	1.5
Off highway/ATV	256,730	1.3
Motor Boating	246,909	1.3
Downhill Skiing	242,262	1.3
Hunting	217,458	1.1
Mtn Biking	215,629	1.1
Road/Tour Biking	213,056	1.1
Canoe/Kayaking	181,445	0.9
Snowmobiling	115,425	0.6
XC Skiing	69,125	0.4
Water-skiing	68,090	0.4
Snowboarding	57,712	0.3
Snowshoeing	57,712	0.3
Ice Fishing	19,237	0.1
	19,345,372	100.0

Source: ITRR 2000-2001 Traveler Study

The BRFSS survey asked Montanans about their *primary* outdoor recreational activity during the past twelve months. Walking was the most frequently cited activity, which is consistent with national trends, followed by fishing, hunting, golf, camping and horseback riding. These data also support findings about facility needs, indicating that facilities such as parks and open space, playgrounds, trails (walking, cross-country skiing, biking, 4-wheeling), skate parks, swimming pools and ball fields are important facilities to serve Montanans. The survey also asked about activities that Montanans would like to have done, but were unable. The most frequently cited activity was downhill skiing/snowboarding, followed by fishing, float boating, cross-country skiing, hunting, camping and golf. The top three reasons for their inability to recreate were lack of time, physical disability and cost. About 8% of Montanans cited problems related to access because of a disability. When asked about recreation issues or concerns, it did not appear that overcrowding, use by outfitters and their guests, or nonresident visitor use are major issues to most Montanans, but the need for facilities, and inadequate access to recreation, did appear to concern 7-10% of residents in several regions of the state.

Quality wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing experiences, and the opportunity to access Montana's vast natural areas, are important to Montanans. Increasingly, concerns related to hunting, fishing, and motorized versus nonmotorized access create conflicts among public and private land owners and managers, recreationists and water users. As Montana's population and the number of nonresident visitors have grown, there is greater demand on facilities and managers. Tourism is an important component of Montana's economy, and it creates a significant demand for outdoor recreation facilities. Moreover, the highest demand activities parallel the facility types with greatest needs.

Nonresident Tourism Trends

In 2001, Montana hosted 9.6 million nonresident visitors – a 46% increase from 6.5 million visitors in 1990 – and they spent \$1.7 billion in the state. Montana's nonresident visitors enjoy the same outdoor recreation activities as Montana residents, both seasonally and year-round (see sidebar, next page).

The top ten states of origin and the number of travel *groups* from each in 2001 were:

Washington	466,000	Alberta, CAN	206,000
North Dakota	354,000	Minnesota	204,000
California	306,000	Colorado	163,000
Wyoming	297,000	Oregon	155,000
Idaho	261,000	Utah	124,000

Montana's Tourism Strategic Plan for 2003-2007 identifies high-value, low-impact nonresident visitors as primary target customer segments. These visitors are willing to pay for high quality recreation experiences. However, nonresidents' contribution to funding Montana recreation services and facilities is not being maximized because taxes and fees charged to nonresidents are lower than in many other states.

Many nonresident visitors come to Montana to enjoy natural resource-based outdoor recreation, such as hunting, fishing and motorized recreation (boating, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling). While many of these outdoorsmen are high-value visitors, they also contribute to conflict related to these activities in certain parts of the state.

Summary of Supply and Demand

Montana resident and nonresident recreationists participate in generally the same outdoor activities, which are walking, hiking, biking, swimming, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting and picnicking. Montana citizens are aging, and wages are low, so accessibility and affordability are important facets of outdoor recreation planning. State and regional tourism efforts are directed at attracting higher value, lower impact nonresident visitors to maximize tourism revenues while minimizing the impact of tourism on Montanans. Demand for both motorized and non-motorized recreation access will continue to increase; therefore, facilities will need to be provided to address this demand effectively, while managing Montana's natural and cultural assets sustainably.

National and state data indicate that these trends will continue, with particular emphasis on activities preferred by mature citizens and youth, as families and extended families seek to reconnect and establish stronger family ties through recreation activities.

Recreation Issues and Gaps

During the SCORP planning process, ten key issues were identified through analyses of the BRFSS survey of Montanans, online survey of facility managers and other research and public outreach efforts described in Chapters 2 and 3. The ten issues are grouped into four categories:

- ♦ Gaps Between Supply & Demand
- ♦ ADA Compliance
- ♦ Adequate Funding & Other Resources to Manage & Maintain Recreation Facilities
- ♦ Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Programs & Grants

The issues that relate to gaps between supply and demand are the following:

ISSUE 1: Inadequate swimming pool facilities to serve local needs.

ISSUE 2: Insufficient quality and quantity of recreation facilities for youth.

ISSUE 3: Need for continued access to, and maintenance of, rural and backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine, and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.

ISSUE 4: Need for increased miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.

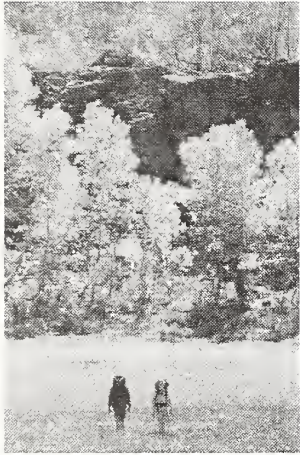
ISSUE 5: Insufficient access for water-based recreation.

The issue related to ADA compliance is the following:

ISSUE 7: Need for upgrades to provide more ADA-compliant outdoor recreation facilities.

Montana's population grew by 13% from 1990 to 2000, and is expected to top one million by 2010. It is the 4th oldest population in the nation.





The issues related to resources for managing and maintaining facilities are the following:

ISSUE 8: Lack of awareness of the SCORP, LWCF program, and other resources available to local entities for outdoor recreation facilities.

ISSUE 9: Insufficient funding, staffing and partnerships at every level (local, tribal, state, federal) to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.

The issue related to the Land & Water Conservation Fund program is the following:

ISSUE 10: Need for additional funding for LWCF grant program, and simplification of the process.

The issues provide the basis for identifying goals, objectives and actions for the SCORP.

SCORP Goals, Objectives and Actions

Based on the analyses of the supply of outdoor recreation facilities, of demand for outdoor recreation, and on identification of key issues and gaps, the planning team established ten goals for Montana's outdoor recreation managers in 2003 to 2007:

1. Increase the quality and/or quantity of local swimming facilities.
2. Enhance local recreation facilities for youth.
3. Continue access to, and maintenance of, rural and backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.
4. Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.
5. Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).
6. Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing).
7. Implement ADA improvements to recreation facilities and sites where needed.
8. Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among local and state recreation facility managers and local communities.
9. Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.
10. Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process in Montana to be as user friendly as possible.

There are 36 specific objectives and 110 actions identified in order to achieve the goals. They are listed in Chapter 5, and summarized in the Implementation Action Table in Chapter 5, section 5.4 (page 67).

The priorities for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program are established by the strategy outlined in this SCORP document. If Montana's outdoor recreation facility managers use this SCORP as a guide for their recreation planning and programming over the next five years, they will help achieve the goals and objectives, and better meet the needs of their customers – Montana's citizens and visitors.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO PLANNING PROCESS & LWCF PROGRAM

Outdoor recreation is synonymous with Montana—the state is an outdoor recreationist's paradise. Montana has extraordinary natural assets: 57,346 square miles of public land, including 320 fishing access sites, 42 state parks, 6 national parks and monuments, the Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails, 9 national forests, 21 national wildlife refuges and 953,574 acres of lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams. Additionally, many of Montana's private lands are open for public recreation—for hunting, fishing, hiking, 4-wheeling, skiing and snowmobiling. Montana's cities, counties, park districts and schools provide a myriad of developed outdoor recreation facilities for citizens and visitors of all ages.

Since 1965, the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program has provided more than \$32 million to Montana for state and local outdoor recreation projects, which are administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), plus an additional \$3.5 billion for projects on federal lands. LWCF is a critical contributor to Montana's quality of life and to its tourism economy (nonresident visitors spent \$1.7 billion in Montana in 2001, making tourism Montana's second largest industry behind agriculture). This Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) describes Montana's supply of public outdoor recreation facilities, trends in demand for those facilities, key outdoor recreation challenges and issues in Montana, and statewide goals, objectives, actions and priorities for enhancing outdoor recreation in the years 2003 to 2007.

1.1 Purpose of the SCORP Document

The purpose of the SCORP is to outline Montana's five-year plan for outdoor recreation management, conservation and development. It provides the strategic framework for recreation facility managers to use as a guideline in planning and prioritizing resources, and includes a timeline for implementation. It is action-oriented—it addresses "what, why, how, when, who, and how to pay for it." It is written to be consistent with the objectives of the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, which are to conserve high-quality land and water assets for outdoor recreation, and to enhance recreation facilities for all Americans (see Section 1.3). This SCORP also identifies Montana's top priority statewide and regional outdoor recreation needs, and specifies a process for allocating funding to state and local projects based on those needs.

1.2 Planning Process & Limitations

The 2003-2007 Montana SCORP was developed using a five-step planning process (see Table 1.1, next page). Originally, the planning team was selected to begin the planning process on July 1, 2002, and complete it by December 31, 2002, which was an aggressive schedule for the planning effort. However, due to a Special Session of the Montana Legislature in early August 2002, the planning process was delayed and did not begin until September 1, 2002. Therefore, the planning team was given only four months to finish the work, and was not able to complete all of the steps in the process as originally proposed. As a result, there are limitations to the data collected and to the level of detail that could be obtained. This SCORP document thus is considered a

Chapter 1:

Introduction to

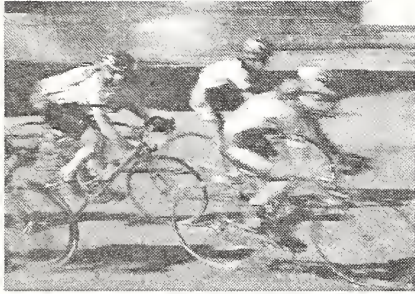
- ♦ SCORP Purpose
- ♦ Planning Process
- ♦ LWCF Program

Outdoor Recreation in America

The evidence strongly suggests that participation in outdoor recreation at any time of life--and particularly as a child--leads people to have more satisfying and fulfilling lives. All these findings strongly suggest that outdoor recreation is a decisive factor in creating a satisfied and contented society. This study shows that outdoor recreation is not just enjoyable--Americans also believe it leads to important social benefits. Overwhelming majorities (about 90%) agree that recreation is healthy, increases appreciation for nature and the environment, and helps parents teach good values to their children. Outdoor recreation also is perceived to be widely available--not just a luxury for the affluent. The top motivations of the public for participating in outdoor recreation are "fun," "relaxation," "health and exercise," "family togetherness," "stress reduction," "to experience nature" and "to be with friends."

Source: American Recreation Coalition





“fluid” document: several of the action items listed in Chapter 5 define steps to continue the planning process in 2003 in order to fill gaps in the data where needed. Specific gaps in the data and limitations in the resulting conclusions are noted in appropriate places in the document.

Table 1.1

SCORP Planning Process & Timeline	Sept				Oct				Nov				Dec				Jan				Feb			
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
1. Orientation and Information-Gathering																								
A. Meetings with FWP, Advisory Committee																								
B. Review State & Regional Planning Documents																								
C. Review previous SCORPs from MT & other states																								
D. Review state and nat'l recreation & tourism trend data																								
2. Evaluate Recreation Demand: BRFSS & State/Nat'l Data																								
E. Obtain January - July BRFSS data; conduct analysis																								
F. Present results of BRFSS to Advisory Cmte & MRPA for input																								
G. Compare results of BRFSS to state/national recreation data/trends																								
3. Evaluate Recreation Supply: Online Survey																								
H. Develop draft online survey instrument																								
I. Present draft instrument to Advrsy Cmte & MRPA, refine per input																								
J. Recruit facility managers to participate in survey																								
K. Conduct online survey of recreation facility managers																								
L. Analyze results, present to FWP & Advrsy Cmte for review & input																								
M. Post BRFSS & online survey results to web site; notify stakeholders																								
4. Develop Draft SCORP Document																								
N. Identify Key Issues, Priorities, Goals, Objectives & Actions																								
O. Develop draft SCORP document																								
P. FWP & Advisory Cmte review of issues, goals, objectives, actions																								
Q. Create draft Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)																								
R. Input from FWP, Advisory Committee on draft SCORP; refine																								
S. Send draft SCORP to Nat'l Park Service before 12/31/02 deadline																								
5. Public Input; Finalize SCORP Document																								
T. Post draft & final SCORP on project web site for comments																								
U. Conduct public meetings to present draft SCORP, obtain input																								
V. Obtain final 2002 BRFSS data; analyze to incorporate into SCORP																								
W. Refine/complete final SCORP; add final BRFSS data																								

Table 1.1 above outlines the five-step planning process, along with the four-month planning timeline (September through December 2002). The draft SCORP was completed in December, but due to the holidays, and refinements to the draft SCORP, the public meetings and public comment period were scheduled in February. Additionally, the final data set from the 2002 Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) Outdoor Recreation Module sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Montana Dept. of Health & Human Services was not available to the planning team until late January. The planning process is described on the following pages.

SCORP Planning Process Details

1. Orientation and Information-Gathering

The SCORP development effort began with the planning team becoming grounded in all relevant information and resources about outdoor recreation in Montana, as well as national trends.

A. Meetings with FWP, Advisory Committee

The first step in the planning process involved meetings between the planning team and the staff at Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to confirm process details, and to identify all state and regional planning documents that would be useful information for the planning team (see Figure 1.1). Potential members for a SCORP Advisory Committee were identified and recruited by FWP staff and the planning team. The planning team then met with the Advisory Committee to discuss the process, their role and expectations, and to obtain Committee input.

B. Examine State & Regional Planning Documents

The planning team reviewed numerous state and regional planning documents, including the FWP Vision 2020 Plan, the Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan 2003-2007, the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Master Plan, other state and federal agency planning documents (Montana Dept. of Transportation, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, etc.), regional tourism plans and others. They also conducted extensive reviews of the following information:

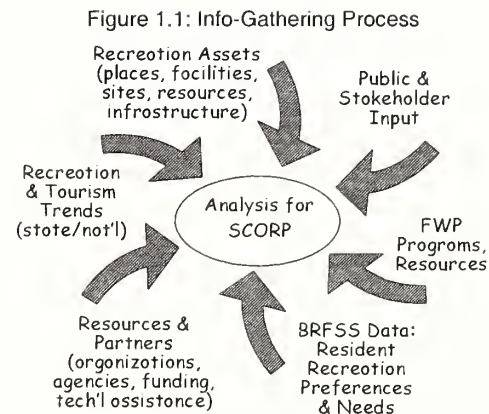
- ♦ State socio-economic trends: population demographics, industry sectors, employment
- ♦ Infrastructure and services: special places, major attractions, facilities, amenities, activities, transportation systems, natural-resource sites, etc.
- ♦ Promotion and communication system: interpretive systems, events, marketing efforts, etc.
- ♦ Resources for implementation: organizations, agencies, funding sources, technical assistance

C. Review Previous SCORPs from Montana and Other States

Montana's last SCORP was completed in 1993, so the planning team used it and previous SCORPs for reference, but also assessed SCORPs from several other states. The team also reviewed recent LWCF grant applications from Montana's cities and counties.

D. Analyze State and National Recreation & Tourism Trend Data

Montana is fortunate to have an Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research at the University of Montana. The planning team used several recent studies on the recreation and leisure travel habits of Montanans, and on nonresident visitors and seasonal visitation trends. They also used national recreation and tourism trend data from the American Recreation Coalition, America Outdoors, the Travel Industry Association of America, the National Recreation & Parks Association, the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, federal agencies and others.





2. Evaluate Recreation Demand in Montana: BRFSS, State, and National Data

The planning team used several sources of information to determine consumer demand for outdoor recreation facilities in Montana.

E. Obtain January–July 2002 BRFSS Data; Conduct Analysis

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey is explained in Chapter 3, but in short, Montana FWP partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Montana Department of Health & Human Services to conduct a random survey of Montanans to determine their outdoor recreation activities, preferences, and needs for additional outdoor recreation facilities. The results of this survey, which was conducted throughout 2002, were available to the planning team in early September (for January through July data) and in late January 2003 (for the complete 2002 data set). The planning team analyzed the data statewide and regionally, to determine key regional differences.

F. Present Results of BRFSS to Advisory Committee & MRPA Conference for Input

Two members of the planning team met with the Advisory Committee in early September 2002 to present and discuss the preliminary BRFSS results and implications, and obtain insights from Committee members. Two members also attended the Montana Recreation & Parks Association (MRPA) conference in mid-September, where they presented the SCORP planning process and the results of the BRFSS survey through July, and obtained input from MRPA members.

G. Compare Results of BRFSS to State and National Recreation Data Trends

Montana's BRFSS results were compared to the key findings of resident and nonresident recreation research conducted by the University of Montana, and to national recreation surveys. The comparisons were incorporated into the analysis for this SCORP document (Chapter 3 & 4).

3. Evaluate Recreation Supply: Online Survey

Time and budget constraints necessitated an expedient method for conducting a statewide outdoor recreation facility inventory. The method chosen by the planning team was a web-based survey (see Chapter 2 and Appendix A.).

H. Develop Draft Online Survey Instrument

A draft online survey instrument was developed by the planning team, and reviewed by FWP staff, then refined. A key objective was to obtain as much information as possible while maintaining a straightforward, user-friendly format that survey participants could complete easily in 15-20 minutes.

I. Present Draft Instrument to Advisory Committee & MRPA, Refine per Input

The draft survey was then sent to the Advisory Committee, and presented at the MRPA conference in mid-September for input. Based on the feedback, the survey was finalized for the web-based interface.

J. Recruit Facility Managers to Participate in the Survey

Survey participants were recruited through public facility organizations: MRPA, the Montana League of Cities & Towns, the Montana Assn. of Counties, the Public School Superintendents, Montana tribes and tribal colleges, Montana colleges and universities, and state and federal land management agencies.

K. Conduct Online Survey of Recreation Facility Managers

The survey was available online October 18-25, 2002, for facility managers to complete. They were notified in advance via mail/email, and received several communications before the close of the survey.

L. Analyze Results, Present to FWP & Advisory Committee for Review & Input

The results of the online survey were analyzed, and presented to FWP and the Advisory Committee for discussion and refinement. The survey results and implications were used to help identify statewide outdoor recreation needs, issues and recommendations (see Chapters 2, 4 and 5).

M. Post BRFSS & Online Survey Results to Web Site; Notify Stakeholders

The planning team worked with FWP to create a SCORP project web site hosted as part of the FWP web site. The results of both the BRFSS and online surveys were posted to the web site, and survey participants and other stakeholders notified for review and comment.

4. Develop Draft SCORP Document

Once the analysis phases were complete, the strategic elements of the SCORP were developed.

N. Identify Key Issues, Priorities, Goals, Objectives & Actions

Based on the recreation demand and supply information described above, the planning team developed a list of key outdoor recreation issues, then created SCORP goals, objectives and actions.

O. Develop Draft SCORP Document

The draft SCORP document was developed, incorporating all of the data collection and analysis, and the strategic elements (issues, goals, objectives and actions).

P. FWP & Advisory Committee Review of Issues, Goals, Objectives, Actions

A rough draft of the SCORP was sent to FWP and the Advisory Committee for review, and a meeting held via conference call to discuss the draft. The Committee's insights were then used to develop a refined version of the SCORP for further review.

Q. Make Recommendations for Revised Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)

Input from the BRFSS and online surveys and FWP staff was used by the planning team to develop recommendations for a new OPSP for the LWCF grant program in Montana.



R.. Input from FWP, Advisory Committee on Draft SCORP; Refine

A final draft SCORP was completed and sent to FWP and the Committee for review.

5. Public Input; Finalize SCORP Document

The final phase was to gather public comments and refine the document based on the input.

S. Send Draft SCORP to National Park Service (NPS) before December 31, 2002 Deadline

A draft document was sent to NPS by December 31, in order to meet federal funding requirements.

T. Post Draft & Final SCORP on Project Web Site for Comments

The final draft SCORP was posted on the project web site, and stakeholders were notified for their review and input. After the public meetings and comment period, the final document was posted.

U. Conduct Public Meetings to Present Draft SCORP, Obtain Input

In early February 2003, public meetings were held at ten videoconference sites around the state to obtain public input on the final draft SCORP. Planning team members presented the document, and FWP staff served as moderators at the sites to field questions and record comments.

V. Obtain Final 2002 BRFSS Data; Analyze to Incorporate into SCORP

In late January 2003, the final BRFSS data set for 2002 was available to the planning team. The data was analyzed to see if any significant differences existed from the preliminary data set received in September 2002. There were no significant differences in findings from the original data set.

W. Refine and Complete Final SCORP; Add Final BRFSS Data

After a public comment period, the final SCORP was completed in March 2003, incorporating the final BRFSS data and its implications.



1.3 Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program

LWCF Background & Funding Allocations

The information in this section is adapted from the Americans for Our Heritage & Recreation website (www.ahrinfo.org).

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a visionary and bipartisan program, established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. From parks to playgrounds, wilderness to wetlands, bicycle paths to hiking trails, LWCF has helped communities acquire nearly seven million acres of parkland, water resources, and open space. LWCF has also underwritten the development of more than 37,000 state and local park and recreation projects. Authorized at \$900 million annually, LWCF is one of the most important conservation tools ever designed.

A Vision Whose Value Endures

The need for a mechanism like the LWCF first became apparent in the 1950s, when a shortfall in federal funding threatened to limit protection for places where Americans could experience and enjoy the outdoors. In 1958, Congress – with the full support of President Dwight Eisenhower – created the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. Chaired by Laurence Rockefeller, the commission documented the increasing need Americans felt for quality and accessible outdoor recreation, as well as threats to the open space and natural resources most appropriate to provide that recreational experience. When the commission issued its report, *Outdoor Recreation for America*, in 1962, one of its chief recommendations was that Congress should establish a source of funding to safeguard important natural areas and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was later proposed by President John Kennedy, in 1962. In a letter to Congress, he stated:

"Actions deferred are all too often opportunities lost, particularly in safeguarding our natural resources. I urge the enactment of this proposal at the earliest possible date so that a further significant step may be taken to assure the availability and accessibility of land and water-based recreation opportunities for all Americans."

Although Congress did not enact the Land and Water Conservation Fund while President Kennedy was alive, his letter sparked the bipartisan process that led to enactment of LWCF in 1964, under President Lyndon Johnson. The success of the Land and Water Conservation Fund's process of distributing money--and the popularity of the projects that LWCF has made a reality--created pressure to increase the amount of money available from the LWCF. Congress in 1968 made offshore oil and gas drilling lease proceeds a source for LWCF, and in 1977 increased the amount of funds available to \$900 million per year.

How the Land & Water Conservation Fund Works

To ensure an integrated approach to conservation and recreation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has two components:

1. A federal program that funds the purchase of land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes within our nation's four federal land management agencies (USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management); and
2. A state matching grants program that provides funds to states for planning, developing, and acquiring land and water areas for state and local parks and recreation areas.

Funds appropriated for LWCF's federal program are used for:

- ♦ Public acquisition of special lands and places for conservation and outdoor recreation purposes
- ♦ Public acquisition of private holdings within national parks, national forests, national fish and wildlife refuges, public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and wilderness areas
- ♦ Public acquisition of areas key to fish and wildlife protection
- ♦ Public acquisition as authorized by law

"An Act to establish a land and water conservation fund to assist the States and Federal agencies in meeting present and future outdoor recreation demands and needs of the American people, and for other purposes."

- Land & Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965

Funds appropriated for LWCF's state matching grants program are divided among the states and can be used to:

- ♦ Acquire land for parks and outdoor recreation purposes
- ♦ Build or redevelop outdoor recreation and park facilities
- ♦ Provide riding and hiking trails
- ♦ Enhance outdoor recreation access
- ♦ Conserve open space, forests, wetlands, wildlife, and natural resource areas through outdoor recreation projects

LWCF and the Federal Appropriations Process

In January of every year, the President submits his budget to Congress outlining spending priorities for land acquisition. This budget includes a specific request for LWCF and a list of acquisitions for each land management agency for the upcoming fiscal year. Congress then appropriates funds for land purchases by the administrative agencies. After Congress approves an Interior Appropriations bill in August or September, it is sent to the President for enactment.

How Federal Land Agencies Get LWCF Monies

In early spring of every year, the regional offices of the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management begin the annual process of prioritizing land acquisition needs for their agencies. After taking into account a variety of factors, including cost, probability of development, and local support, among other criteria, they develop prioritized "wish lists" that are forwarded to their Washington, D.C. land acquisition headquarters sometime in late summer. The headquarters staff identifies its priorities and sends them to the Land Acquisition Working Group, comprised of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management; and the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Nature, Resources, and Environment. The working group sends the prioritized agency lists to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the completion of the congressional session. OMB critiques the lists and returns its opinion immediately prior to Thanksgiving. The agencies have until mid-December to appeal OMB's decision. The finalized fiscal year land acquisition spending amount is presented as part of the President's budget the first week in the following February.

How States Get LWCF Grants

To be eligible for matching grants, every state must prepare and regularly update a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). SCORPs include inventories or assessments of current outdoor recreation resources (local, state, tribal and federal) within a state, identify needs and new opportunities for outdoor recreation improvements, and set forth a five-year action agenda to meet the goals identified by citizens and elected leaders. The appropriate field office of the National Park Service then approves this plan. All grant applications submitted must be in accord with the priorities listed in the action plan. To make the connection between the SCORP and local community project proposals, each state also develops an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that contains a set of project ranking selection criteria and a timetable for funding availability and application deadlines.



In most years, all states receive allocations of LWCF grant funds based on a national formula, with state population being the most influential factor. Then states initiate a statewide competition for the amount available (including the new year allocation, any previous year allocations, and any amounts "recovered" due to cost under-runs on earlier projects funded) to award via matching grants. Applications are received by a state until its specified deadline date. Then they are scored and ranked according to the project selection criteria so that the top ranked projects are chosen for funding. Successful applications are forwarded to the National Park Service for formal approval and obligation of federal grant monies.

1.4 Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in Montana

In 1964, the US Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, under President Lyndon Johnson. In 1965, the Montana Legislature enacted a law designating the Montana Fish & Game Commission (now Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks) to represent the state for the purposes of the LWCF Act.

Since then, Montana has had an active LWCF program, and more than \$32 million has been appropriated to Montana for state and local outdoor recreation projects. The annual amount has varied from \$3.1 million to less than \$100,000 in years when Congress appropriated money for the state program (see Figure 1.2, next page). The LWCF monies are allocated through U.S. Department of Interior to the National Park Service, which oversees the LWCF program, and administered at the state level by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

Outdoor recreation needs far exceed available funds, which means that not every worthy local community conservation or outdoor recreation project receives LWCF funding. FWP determines which projects receive funding based on scoring criteria called the Open Project Selection Process, or OPSP.

Generally, grant applicants must be able to answer the following questions in order to meet the criteria:

- ♦ Does the project assist in accomplishing the overall purpose of the LWCF program? The state LWCF program was created to assist states to acquire and develop lands with high recreation potential before these lands are put to other uses.
- ♦ Does the project relate to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)? All approved LWCF projects must meet the criteria set forth by Montana's overall recreation plan--and local recreation plans--to ensure that coordinated planning is occurring among state, regional, and local recreation entities. Also, this process allows public participation in determining community recreation priorities.
- ♦ Does the project provide outdoor recreational uses more appropriately administered by a public agency rather than a private enterprise? Facilities should be designed to serve the broadest and most diverse spectrum of age groups, including minority and special populations.
- ♦ Can the local municipality or authority meet the matching requirement? The sponsoring entity must have the financial ability to meet its matching obligation.

Montana Code Annotated

23-2-102. Department of fish, wildlife, and parks to implement federal act. The department of fish, wildlife, and parks is hereby designated as the state agency to represent and act for the state for the purpose of implementing the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

23-2-103. Compliance with federal act authorized -- powers of department. The department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall do those things necessary to comply with the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. Among other things, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks may:

- (1) prepare a comprehensive statewide outdoor recreational plan which shall contain an evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreational resources and facilities in Montana and a program for implementation of the plan;
- (2) accept and administer moneys paid by the secretary of the interior for approved projects;
- (3) contract with other state agencies, cities, counties, and other political subdivisions of the state, private organizations, and agencies of the federal government;
- (4) acquire, other than by eminent domain, and develop outdoor recreational areas and facilities and land and waters and interests in land and waters for such areas and facilities;
- (5) for the purpose of implementing the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, coordinate its activities with and represent the interests of all agencies of state, city, county, and other governmental units with outdoor recreational responsibilities.

- ♦ Can the state or local entity provide adequate operation and management of the proposed project? The state, municipality or other public recreation authority must be able to operate and maintain the project or area for the public in perpetuity.

Figure 1.2: LWCF Funds Allocated to Montana 1965-2002

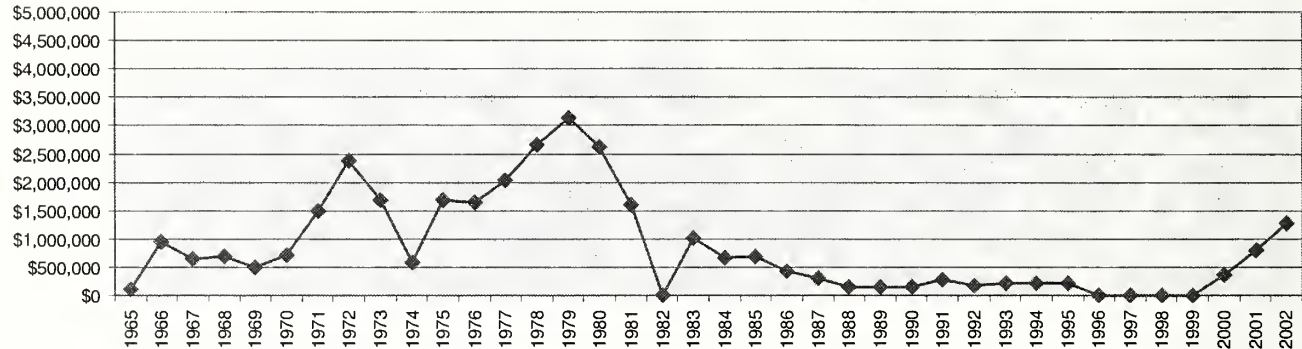


Figure 1.3: Montana State Parks Administrative Regions



Land and Water Conservation Fund grants are intended to be distributed equitably throughout the state, and to local entities of varying sizes and needs, based on statewide priorities and criteria. Because there are regional differences in recreational activities, opportunities and needs, provisions are made in LWCF to account for regional priorities.

The Montana State Parks Division of FWP divides the state into seven administrative regions. These regional boundaries differ from other FWP divisional regions. This SCORP document includes a regional analysis of outdoor recreation supply and demand, along with regional facility needs and priorities, roughly using the State Parks regional boundaries (the data were collected and analyzed at the county level, so some adjustments were made when Parks Division boundaries did not exactly coincide with county boundaries). Figure 1.3 is a map of Montana State Parks' seven administrative regions in the context of county lines.

A goal of LWCF in Montana is to distribute available grant money as equitably as possible to eligible sponsors in an effort to increase opportunities for outdoor recreation. Table 1.2 details the amount of state LWCF funds spent in each county and FWP region in Montana since 1965. It also shows the percentage of all LWCF funds spent, and then compares the percentage of funds in each county or region to the percentage of the state's population in that county and region using population figures from the 2000 census. The far right column shows the difference in percentage of total statewide LWCF funds to the percentage of 2000 census population in each county and region.

The LWCF dollar amounts represent both state-sponsored and locally sponsored projects. There are a number of small deficiencies in the Table 1.2 analysis. For instance, dollar amounts are not adjusted for inflation (the value of dollars spent in the 1960's is not the same as in the 1980's). Nor have the data been adjusted to account for population fluctuations over the years, such as population losses in Regions 4, 6 and 7 in the 1990's. Furthermore, because of staff turnover in Montana's LWCF Program, LWCF grant funding history may not have been used consistently to score applications. Despite these drawbacks, it is a useful analysis that will be helpful to the LWCF project selection process.

In Regions 1, 2 and 5, the amount of LWCF funds spent, as a percentage of the overall total, is less than the percentage of the state population located in those regions. As mentioned above, this could be due in part to recent population growth in the Flathead Valley (Region 1), Missoula and Ravalli Counties (Region 2) and Billings (Region 5).

Table 1.2: Montana LWCF by Region & County Compared to Population, 1965-2002

Region	County	1965 - 2002 LWCF \$	% Total LWCF \$	2000 Pop'n	% MT Pop'n	% LWCF - % MT Pop'n
1	Flathead	2,187,338	6.72	74,471	8.3	-1.5
	Lake	1,683,063	5.17	26,507	2.9	2.2
	Lincoln	207,251	0.64	18,837	2.1	-1.5
	Sanders	457,964	1.41	10,227	1.1	0.3
	Region 1 Totals	4,535,616	13.93	130,042	14.4	-0.5
2	Deer Lodge	814,760	2.50	9,417	1.0	1.5
	Granite	55,059	0.17	2,830	0.3	-0.1
	Mineral	76,226	0.23	3,884	0.4	-0.2
	Missoula	2,299,389	7.06	95,802	10.6	-3.6
	Powell	669,011	2.06	7,180	0.8	1.3
	Ravalli	960,787	2.95	36,070	4.0	-1.0
	Region 2 Totals	4,875,232	14.98	142,936	15.8	-0.9
3	Beaverhead	614,621	1.89	9,202	1.0	0.9
	Broadwater	63,280	0.19	4,385	0.5	-0.3
	Gallatin	1,460,259	4.49	67,831	7.5	-3.0
	Jefferson	418,480	1.29	10,049	1.1	0.2
	Lewis & Clark	1,641,168	5.04	55,716	6.2	-1.1
	Madison	550,238	0.83	6,851	0.8	0.1
	Park	270,053	0.83	15,694	1.7	-0.9
	Silver Bow	1,023,730	3.14	34,606	3.8	-0.7
	Region 3 Total	6,041,829	18.56	112,867	12.5	6.1
4	Cascade	1,191,116	3.66	80,357	8.9	-5.2
	Chouteau	287,387	0.88	5,970	0.7	0.2
	Fergus	160,392	0.49	11,893	1.3	-0.8
	Glacier	561,628	1.73	13,247	1.5	0.3
	Judith Basin	78,091	0.24	2,329	0.3	0.0
	Liberty	24,133	0.07	2,158	0.2	-0.2
	Meagher	67,891	0.07	1,932	0.2	-0.1
	Petroleum	23,651	0.07	493	0.1	0.0
	Pondera	104,891	0.32	6,424	0.7	-0.4
	Teton	205,452	0.63	6,445	0.7	-0.1
	Toole	165,016	0.51	5,267	0.6	-0.1
	Region 4 Total	2,869,648	8.82	18,629	2.1	6.8
5	Big Horn	226,900	0.70	12,671	1.4	-0.7
	Carbon	362,818	1.11	9,552	1.1	0.1
	Golden Valley	9,632	0.03	1,042	0.1	-0.1
	Musselshell	376,331	1.16	4,497	0.5	0.7
	Stillwater	202,261	0.62	8,195	0.9	-0.3
	Sweet Grass	478,218	1.47	3,609	0.4	1.1
	Wheatland	468,944	1.44	2,259	0.3	1.2
	Yellowstone	2,076,241	6.38	129,352	14.3	-8.0
	Region 5 Total	4,201,345	12.91	143,415	15.9	-3.0
6	Blaine	263,550	0.81	7,009	0.8	0.0
	Daniels	25,871	0.08	2,017	0.2	-0.1
	Hill	611,235	1.88	16,673	1.8	0.0
	McCone	83,823	0.26	1,977	0.2	0.0
	Phillips	31,415	0.10	4,601	0.5	-0.4
	Roosevelt	243,510	0.75	10,620	1.2	-0.4
	Sheridan	254,407	0.78	4,105	0.5	0.3
	Treasure	44,207	0.14	861	0.1	0.0
	Valley	186,141	0.57	7,675	0.9	-0.3
	Region 6 Total	1,744,159	5.36	23,261	2.6	2.8
7	Carter	34,357	0.11	1,360	0.2	0.0
	Custer	107,455	0.33	11,696	1.3	-1.0
	Dawson	1,549,379	4.76	9,059	1.0	3.8
	Fallon	640,480	1.97	2,837	0.3	1.7
	Garfield	64,435	0.20	1,279	0.1	0.1
	Powder River	223,841	0.69	1,858	0.2	0.5
	Prairie	16,443	0.05	1,199	0.1	-0.1
	Richland	780,711	2.40	9,667	1.1	1.3
	Rosebud	1,394,999	4.29	9,383	1.0	3.2
	Wibaux	36,239	0.11	1,068	0.1	0.0
	Region 7 Total	4,848,339	14.89	21,317	2.4	12.5
MC	*Multi-county '65-'02	3,436,145	10.56	unknown	unknown	unknown
State	Total MT LWCF 1965-2002	32,552,313	100.00	902,195	100.0	

The regions whose funding has exceeded their proportion of the population are Region 3 (by 6.1%), Region 4 (by 6.8%), Region 6 (by 2.8%) and Region 7 (by 12.5%). The Region 7 figure is a bit surprising, but it appears to be due primarily to past funding (state or locally sponsored projects) in Dawson, Fallon, Richland and Rosebud Counties. As mentioned above, these proportions also could be due in part to population losses in Regions 4, 6 and 7 in the 1990's.

The information in Table 1.2 will be used by Montana FWP, in combination with sponsor-specific LWCF funding history, to help determine funding of state and local LWCF projects for 2003-2007.

CHAPTER 2: SUPPLY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

In order to understand outdoor recreation needs in Montana, it is necessary to begin with an examination of existing conditions--an inventory and assessment of existing outdoor recreation facilities, sites and services--and then to compare those facilities with outdoor recreation demand. This chapter provides an overview of outdoor recreation facilities and their condition on a statewide basis, as well as by region and by facility ownership. The next chapter addresses outdoor recreation demand. This chapter has eight sections:

- 2.1 Facility Inventory Methodology & Limitations
- 2.2 Overview of Montana's Outdoor Recreation Lands & Facilities
- 2.3 Statewide & Regional Public Facility Inventory
- 2.4 Ownership of Facilities
- 2.5 Condition of Facilities
- 2.6 Facility Needs
- 2.7 Estimated Costs to Meet Facility Needs
- 2.8 Summary & Implications

2.1 Facility Inventory Methodology & Limitations

A statewide survey of recreation facility managers was conducted in October 2002 to obtain an inventory of all public recreation facilities. To conduct the survey, the planning team used an online (web-based) format. The team developed a draft survey instrument with input from the staff at Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the SCORP Advisory Committee. The draft instrument was presented for review at the September 2002 meeting of the Montana Recreation & Parks Association (MRPA), and refined based on the input received (see survey instrument, Appendix A). The survey was then programmed for the web-based format. Before it was launched online, the survey was pre-tested to improve usability and utility. More than 550 potential public sector survey participants were contacted by both mail and email, using lists from FWP, participant organizations, and agencies (see sidebar at right). Due to time and budget constraints, private sector entities were not surveyed; however, city and county participants were asked to estimate the quantity of privately owned outdoor recreation facilities within their city or county jurisdiction. A total of 236 online questionnaires were completed, representing 95 local, tribal, state and federal entities from all seven FWP administrative regions (Table 2.1).

A true "inventory" should account for all facilities in the state. While efforts were made to encourage participation in the survey and make the inventory as complete as possible, response was lower than anticipated among Montana cities and counties, perhaps due to the timing of the survey (the survey was available online for participants to complete from October 18 to 25, 2002). Participation was surprisingly high among school districts. A handful of participants experienced web browser incompatibilities (those using older versions of Netscape), and in those cases, the planning team obtained the data by email or fax, and entered it directly into the database.

Chapter 2: Supply of Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- ♦ Facility Inventory
- ♦ Facility Ownership
- ♦ Condition & Needs

Online Facility Inventory Survey Participant Groups Contacted

- ♦ Montana Cities (Montana League of Cities and Towns)
- ♦ Montana Counties (Montana Association of Counties)
- ♦ School Districts (Montana School District Superintendents)
- ♦ Montana Park & Recreation Association (MRPA)
- ♦ Montana Tribes & Tribal Colleges
- ♦ Montana Colleges & Universities
- ♦ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- ♦ Montana Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation (DNRC)
- ♦ USDA Forest Service
- ♦ Bureau of Land Management
- ♦ US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ♦ National Park Service
- ♦ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ♦ US Bureau of Reclamation

Table 2.1
Online Facility Inventory Survey
Participants by FWP Region

FWP Region	# Surveys	% of Ttl
Region 1	25	10.6
Region 2	30	12.7
Region 3	46	19.5
Region 4	38	16.1
Region 5	27	11.4
Region 6	35	14.8
Region 7	35	14.8

Therefore, the term “inventory” as it is used in this report refers only to the inventory of facilities reported by the survey participants--it is not a complete statewide inventory. The planning team, FWP and the SCORP Advisory Committee are aware of the limitations created by a partial data set. Therefore, additional data about outdoor recreation were gathered so that this SCORP document would reflect Montana’s outdoor recreation needs and priorities in areas that may not appear to be supported by the online survey data.

When Montana’s last SCORP document was developed in 1993, a two-page written survey was sent to cities and counties, and data were collected over a period of several months in spring 1992. Completed surveys were received from 61 cities and 21 counties, but results were reported only for the 7 largest cities (collectively, 31% of state population) and 20 counties (46% of state population). By comparison, the 2002 online survey was completed in two weeks by 29 cities and 10 counties, as well as 43 school districts, 6 tribal recreation and college

facility managers, 1 local park district, 2 nonprofit organizations, 51 state agency management units and 93 federal agency management units (for a complete list, see Appendix B). The combined population of the 2002 participant cities represents 27% of Montana’s population, and the combined population of the participant counties also represents 27% of Montana’s population. Table 2.1 on the previous page summarizes the distribution of survey participants by region across the state. Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1 at left show the participants by organization type and FWP region (see map of FWP regions, Figure 1.3, page 10).

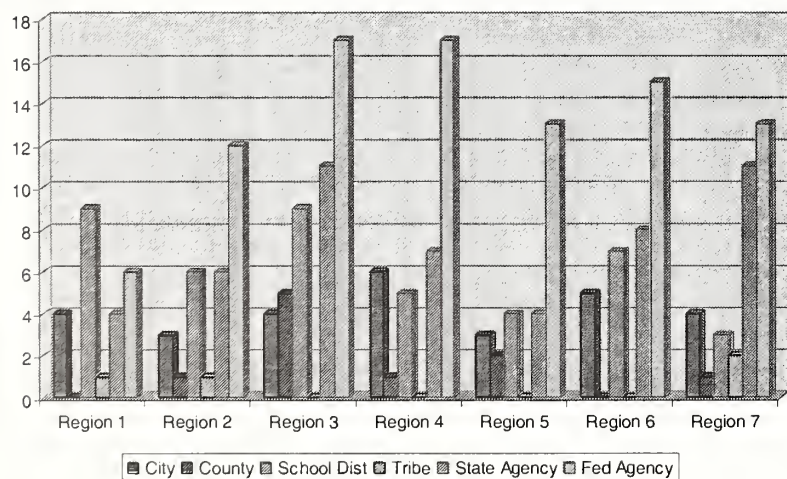
As Table 2.2 indicates, nearly 40% of the participants were from local entities (cities, counties, park districts, school districts, tribes and colleges). About 60% were from state and federal agencies. All regions were represented, with the lowest participation in region 1 and the highest in region 3. State agencies, federal agencies and school districts were well represented in all regions, except for state agencies in regions 1 and 5. Counties were under-represented statewide, with no representation in regions 1 and 6. Cities also were under-represented statewide. There were no tribal participants in regions 3-6. Therefore, the survey results are presented in this chapter with the knowledge that some subgroups were not proportionately represented. In order to gain additional insights, the planning team posted the survey results to the SCORP project web site and conducted public meetings to present the findings and obtain feedback.

The online survey results are presented in sections 2.3 through 2.7, prefaced on the next two pages by an overview of Montana’s existing public and private outdoor recreation lands and facilities.

Table 2.2: Survey Participants by Type & Region

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Total
City	4	3	4	6	3	5	4	29
County	0	1	5	1	2	0	1	10
School Dist	9	6	9	5	4	7	3	43
Tribe	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
State Agency	4	6	11	7	4	8	11	51
Fed Agency	6	12	17	17	13	15	13	93
Park Dist	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Coll/Univ.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Nonprofit	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	25	30	46	38	27	35	35	236

Figure 2.1: Survey Participant Types by Region



2.2 Montana's Outdoor Recreation Lands & Facilities

Montana's land base is 39% state, tribal and federal land (57,346 square miles), and 61% private and municipal (city or county) land. Figure 2.2 is a map of all federally owned public lands in Montana, along with Montana's 42 state parks. On the following pages, the survey participants indicate that they manage nearly 28 million acres of public parks and open space for outdoor recreation, of which nearly 20 million acres are available for hunting (this does not include 3.4 million acres managed by the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation, because they did not participate in the survey). Participant organizations also manage nearly 464,000 acres of lakes, 650+ fishing access sites, 22,000 miles of designated non-motorized trails, and about 9,700 miles of designated motorized trails. Although these figures do not represent all of the public lands available for outdoor recreation in Montana, they do demonstrate the extensive amount of land that is available.

The federal lands in Montana are composed of six national parks and monuments, nine national forests, twenty-one national wildlife refuges, one national scenic trail and two national historic trails. Montana contains 2,000 miles of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail—25% of the entire Trail and more than any other state. The Bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition will take place in Montana in 2005 and 2006, so Trail-related preservation, interpretive and recreational opportunities are particularly important over the next five years – heritage tourism opportunities created by the Bicentennial will benefit local and regional economies.

According to the survey participants, privately owned outdoor recreation facilities include 600+ acres of parks and open space, 70 golf courses, nearly 80 ball fields, 70+ play courts, nearly 250 miles of non-motorized trails, 1,100 camping and RV spaces, and 1,000 acres of hunting lands. Because of the low survey participation, these figures are only a limited glimpse of actual facility counts.

The planning team compiled statewide figures from secondary data to demonstrate the scope of outdoor recreation lands and facilities for specific activities. Access to hunting and fishing is an important issue in Montana. To help address this issue, Montana FWP has a "Block Management" program to enroll private lands for game management and hunting access. Landowners (primarily farmers and ranchers) sign annual agreements, and they are compensated for costs associated with public access and game management. Figure 2.3 shows the acres of private lands enrolled in the Block Management program by FWP region.

From 1996 to 2001, total acres enrolled in Montana's Block Management program increased from 7.1 million to 8.7 million acres, or about 22%. The acreage amounts

Figure 2.2: Public Land Ownership in Montana

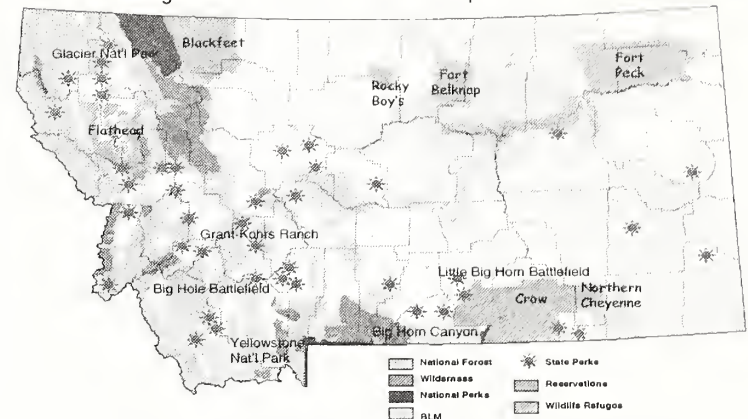


Figure 2.3: Block Management Acres by Region 1996-2001

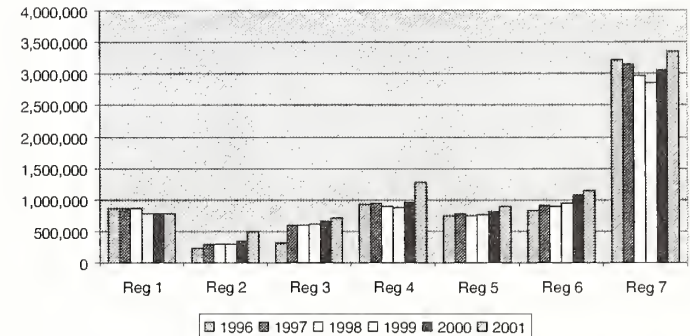


Figure 2.4: 2001 Visitor Activities at Montana Wildlife Refuges

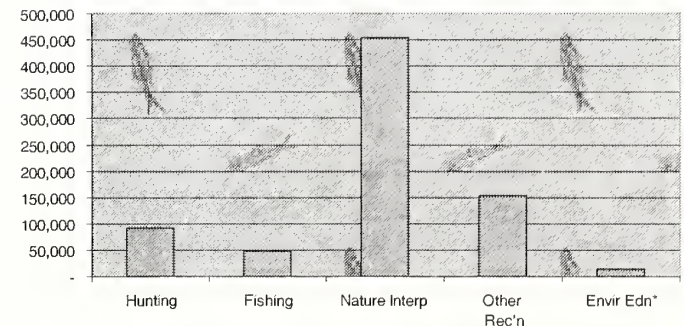
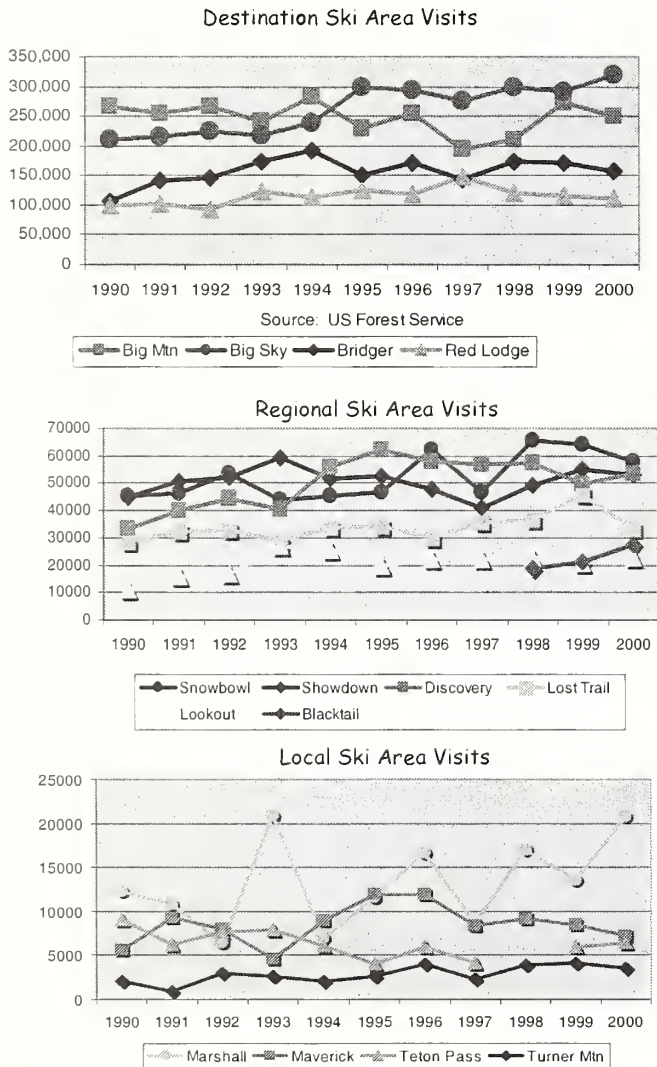


Fig. 2.5: Montana Ski Area Trends



"Destination" ski areas are defined as 100k+ skier visits;
 "Regional" ski areas are defined as 20k-70k skier visits;
 "Local" ski areas are defined as <20k skier visits.

and enrollment trends varied by region (Figure 2.3). Region 7 had 3.3 million acres enrolled in 2001, while the other regions ranged from about 500,000 to 1.2 million acres. In regions 2 and 3, acreage increased by more than 100% between 1996 and 2001, while region 7 acreage declined and then rose again, for a net gain of only 4%. In region 1, acreage declined by 9% from 1996 to 2001.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages twenty-one national wildlife refuges (NWR) and five wetland management districts (WMD) in Montana encompassing more than one million acres, which received more than 600,000 visitors in 2001 (an increase of 43% since 1996). The largest share of those visitors participated in nature interpretation or other recreational activities (Figure 2.4 on the previous page). Nearly 100,000 of those visitors were hunters, and about 50,000 were anglers. Hunter visitation increased by 46%, and angler visitation by 32% from 1996 to 2001. In 1995—the year prior to this chart—the C.M. Russell NWR alone recorded 62,608 hunter visits and 43,700 angler visits, which together represented 96% of all visits to the CMR.

The National Wildlife Refuges contain 128,000 acres of wetlands, which are part of an estimated 840,300 acres of land containing wetlands in Montana (Dahl, 1990). Wetlands play an important role in the support of outdoor recreation activities in Montana (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc.) by providing habitat for fish and wildlife. They also improve water quality by filtering sediments and toxins out of water, recharge wells and groundwater supplies, and provide flood control. Montana has a wetlands strategy that has been developed by the Montana Wetlands Council under the guidance of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Appendix C provides more information about wetlands in Montana, and how the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program pertains to Montana's wetland preservation, restoration and mitigation activities.

In winter, Montana boasts a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities, from downhill skiing and snowmobiling to ice fishing. Figure 2.5 shows ski area visitation trends at Montana's fourteen major destination, regional and local ski areas, which cumulatively offer 14,000+ acres of skiing on 790 runs served by 84 lifts. There are more than 660 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails at twelve private centers, nine national forests and two national parks statewide. Snowmobilers can enjoy 5,000+ miles of groomed trails at designated snowmobile areas statewide, plus many ungroomed areas.

Montana's extraordinary public lands provide a diverse supply of outdoor recreation facilities and assets. The next section provides details about the outdoor recreation facility inventory as reported by the survey participants.

2.3 Statewide & Regional Public Facilities

The first survey question asked facility managers to indicate the quantity or size and condition of each type of outdoor recreation facility that their organization owns or manages.

Table 2.3 summarizes the results of participant answers about the quantity and size of facilities statewide and by region. As noted on page 14, survey participation from cities and counties was limited, so the counts of facilities in several categories are under-represented (e.g., swimming pools, soccer fields, playgrounds, etc.).

The figures for parks, open space and public hunting lands are large because they include state and federal lands managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Corps of Engineers. The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) did not respond to the survey, so 3.4 million acres of state trust lands are not included in the inventory.

The acreage of lakes in region 2 appears to be low, based on the number of lakes actually located in the six counties. Some USFS lakes have not been surveyed, so acreage is not available. No OHV trails were reported in regions 4, 5, 6 or 7, and no groomed snowmobile trails in regions 5, 6 and 7. Note that USFS and BLM trail miles reported are based on estimates rather than actual data. Included are designated “system route” trails only; they do not include roads, “user-created” trails or open riding areas (see Chapter 4 for more information). The miles of walking, hiking, and biking trails appear to be underreported in regions 6 and 7, because those regions contain Ft. Peck Lake, and CM Russell Wildlife Refuge. Trail data were not provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or DNRC. The survey did not obtain data about acreage of urban or rural motorized parks and play areas.

Table 2.3: Statewide & Regional Inventory of Participants' Recreation Facilities

Facility Type	Quantity by Region							Statewide Total
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	
Parks / Open Space (acres)	5,075,405	3,890,375	8,074,866	2,890,769	1,048,104	3,576,951	3,141,096	27,697,566
Picnic Areas	141	60	161	38	71	57	53	581
Skate Parks	-	1	3	-	1	-	2	7
Ice Skating Rinks	2	3	14	5	-	5	2	31
Roller Skating Rinks	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Golf Courses	3	1	3	-	2	1	2	12
Fitness Courses	3	1	1	1	7	-	2	15
Climbing Areas/Walls	1	2	1	-	3	-	-	7
Fairgrounds	-	1	2	-	1	2	2	8
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	-	2	4	3	2	2	2	15
Baseball Fields	18	32	62	14	72	7	7	212
Softball Fields	23	18	30	8	29	8	10	126
Football Fields	15	6	16	7	18	17	4	83
Soccer Fields	24	12	18	9	12	5	2	82
Track, Running	9	7	7	7	8	10	4	52
Volleyball Courts	7	21	18	8	7	2	5	68
Basketball Courts	36	41	54	10	34	17	15	207
Tennis Courts	24	35	46	6	32	11	18	172
Playgrounds	50	48	83	18	44	21	27	291
Swimming Pools/Water Parks	3	4	7	5	7	3	7	36
Lakes (acres)	191,956	144	13,440	10,188	21,514	226,119	549	463,910
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, Lake	74	15	17	13	14	19	7	159
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, River	32	33	58	13	15	9	16	176
Boat Docks	48	16	25	6	7	11	6	119
Swimming Beaches	8	7	6	-	2	2	1	26
Fishing Access Sites	71	87	115	47	42	31	261	654
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only (miles)	824	1,785	699	115	190	1	31	3,645
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved (miles)	23	14	54	18	12	2	4	127
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpaved (miles)	195	274	70	11	32	-	7	589
Trails: Horse/hiking (miles)	6,219	5,117	4,581	640	239	-	143	16,939
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed (miles)	197	81	251	10	13	-	13	565
Trails: OHV/Roads (miles)	2,196	330	1,579	-	-	-	-	4,105
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed (miles)	2,575	1,734	1,201	84	-	-	-	5,594
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	473	172	576	311	420	30	131	2,113
Campground/RV: Spaces w/ HU	21	15	27	-	87	171	8	329
Campground/RV: Spaces w/out HU	1,876	789	1,284	715	596	246	140	5,646
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	10	2	5	5	3	5	2	32
Hunting Lands, Public (acres)	5,072,070	3,785,090	6,800,534	2,008,397	623,901	865,222	621,527	19,776,741
Shooting/Archery Range	2	2	6	1	1	2	4	18
Downhill Ski Areas (acres)	3	352	250	251	350	-	-	1,206
Sledding/Tubing Hills (acres)	3	2	9	-	4	30	-	48

Table 2.4: Quantity & Ownership of Participants' Facilities

Facility Type	Local	%	State	%	Federal	%	TOTAL
Parks / Open Space (acres)	22,130	0.1	229,539	0.8	27,445,897	99.1	27,697,566
Picnic Areas	262	45.1	162	27.9	157	27.0	581
Skate Parks	6	85.7	1	14.3	-		7
Ice Skating Rinks	30	96.8	1	3.2	-		31
Roller Skating Rinks	3	100.0	-		-		3
Golf Courses	12	100.0	-		-		12
Fitness Courses	15	100.0	-		-		15
Climbing Areas/Walls	7	100.0	-		-		7
Fairgrounds	8	100.0	-		-		8
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	15	100.0	-		-		15
Baseball Fields	212	100.0	-		-		212
Softball Fields	123	97.6	1	0.8	2	1.6	126
Football Fields	83	100.0	-		-		83
Soccer Fields	82	100.0	-		-		82
Track, Running	52	100.0	-		-		52
Volleyball Courts	65	95.6	1	1.5	2	2.9	68
Basketball Courts	204	98.6	-		3	1.4	207
Tennis Courts	172	100.0	-		-		172
Playgrounds	282	96.9	3	1.0	6	2.1	291
Swimming Pools/Water Parks	35	97.2	1	2.8	-		36
Lakes (acres)	65,268	14.1	106,546	23.0	292,096	63.0	463,910
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, Lake	6	3.8	78	49.1	75	47.2	159
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, River	7	4.0	136	77.3	33	18.8	176
Boat Docks	5	4.2	54	45.4	60	50.4	119
Swimming Beaches	8	30.8	7	26.9	11	42.3	26
Fishing Access Sites	26	4.0	551	84.3	77	11.8	654
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only (miles)	75	2.1	42	1.2	3,528	96.8	3,645
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved (miles)	80	63.0	18	14.2	29	22.8	127
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpaved (miles)	124	21.1	24	4.1	441	74.9	589
Trails: Horse/hiking (miles)	36	0.2	8	0.0	16,895	99.7	16,939
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed (miles)	6	1.1	-		559	98.9	565
Trails: OHV/Roads (miles)	-		-		4,105	100.0	4,105
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed (miles)	-		1,415	25.3	4,179	74.7	5,594
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	175	8.3	844	39.9	1,094	51.8	2,113
Campground/RV: Spaces w/ HU	122	37.1	21	6.4	186	56.5	329
Campground/RV: Spaces w/out HU	374	6.6	1,016	18.0	4,256	75.4	5,646
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	12	37.5	8	25.0	12	37.5	32
Hunting Lands, Public (acres)	41	0.0	241,011	1.2	19,535,689	98.8	19,776,741
Shooting/Archery Range	12	66.7	5	27.8	1	5.6	18
Downhill Ski Areas (acres)	-		-		1,206	100.0	1,206
Sledding/Tubing Hills (acres)	48	100.0	-		-		48

2.4 Ownership of Facilities

Publicly Owned Facilities

Table 2.4 summarizes the inventory of public outdoor recreation facilities by owner type (local, state or federal). Note that local entities provide less than 1% of all acres of parks and open space, but nearly half (45%) of all picnic areas, almost two-thirds (63%) of paved bike and pedestrian trail miles, and more than one-third (37%) of campgrounds and RV spaces with hookups. Although local entities own and manage 41 acres of hunting lands, it translates to 0% in the table because 41 of 1.2 million acres is only .0034%. These figures only include local entities that responded to the survey, so a more complete inventory would increase the percentages of facilities owned or managed by those entities.

State agencies provide significant acreage of parks and open space, lakes and public hunting lands, along with 84% of fishing access sites and 25% of miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Fish, Wildlife & Parks alone manages 320 fishing access sites. Because the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) did not participate in the survey, figures for state ownership of open space, trails, campgrounds, hunting lands and fishing and boating access sites are under-represented. Lands owned by the Montana Heritage Preservation & Development Commission also are not represented.

Federal agencies provide the majority of acres for parks and open space, lakes and hunting lands, as well as miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, 4-wheeling, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. They also provide most of the undeveloped campsites (no hookups, tent spaces) and snow skiing facilities.

Privately Owned Facilities

In the online survey, city and county recreation facility managers were asked to estimate the number of privately owned outdoor recreation facilities that are open to the public in their city or county. Because of the low response rate from cities and counties to the online survey, the amount of information collected in response to the question about privately owned facilities also was low. However, Table 2.4a summarizes the responses received, and is provided by the planning team for reference only. There were insufficient data to show a meaningful breakdown of facilities by region or private owner type.

As Table 2.4a indicates, most of the privately owned facilities are either owned by businesses or nonprofit organizations. Facilities most likely to be owned by businesses are golf courses, horse and rodeo arenas, swimming pools, campgrounds and RV parks, and downhill ski areas. Facilities most likely to be owned by churches or private schools are play fields and sports courts. A few clubs own parks, skating facilities, and shooting or archery ranges (e.g., gun clubs). Other nonprofit organizations are most likely to own golf courses, horse-related facilities, sports courts and trails. A few “other” organizations own running tracks, playgrounds, swimming pools and trails.

The data do show more than 600 acres of privately owned parks, 1,100 private campground and RV spaces, 70 golf courses, and nearly 250 miles of trails that are open to the public in the limited number of cities and counties that reported the information.

Table 2.4a: Privately-Owned Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Facility Type	# of Survey Participants	Facility Quantity	Owner Type				
			Private Business	Church/Priv Schl	Club	Other Nonprofit	Other
Parks/Open Space (acres)	7	628	2	1	3	-	1
Picnic Areas	6	57	2	-	-	3	1
Skate Parks	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Ice Skating Rinks	5	5	1	-	-	2	1
Roller Skating Rinks	5	6	3	-	1	-	-
Golf Courses	15	70	9	-	-	5	1
Fitness Courses	3	5	-	-	-	3	-
Climbing Areas/Walls	5	9	3	-	-	2	-
Fairgrounds	8	8	1	-	-	4	3
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	13	20	5	-	-	6	2
Baseball Fields	10	40	-	-	-	3	1
Softball Fields	4	15	-	-	-	3	1
Football Fields	6	11	-	1	-	2	3
Soccer Fields	4	12	-	1	-	3	-
Track, Running	9	10	-	1	1	3	4
Volleyball Courts	2	17	-	1	-	1	-
Basketball Courts	7	29	-	2	-	3	2
Tennis Courts	6	28	1	-	-	3	1
Playgrounds	8	43	-	1	-	3	4
Swimming Pools	8	20	5	-	-	3	4
Lakes (acres)	2	42	-	-	-	1	1
Boat Ramps, Lake	2	2	-	-	-	1	1
Boat Ramps, River	2	3	-	-	-	1	1
Boat Docks	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Swimming Beaches	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Fishing Access Sites	3	5	-	-	-	1	2
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only (miles)	4	14	-	-	-	1	3
Trails: Biking/Ped, Paved (miles)	1	2	-	-	-	2	-
Trails: Biking/Ped, Unpaved (miles)	5	113	-	-	-	2	2
Trails: Horse/Hiking (miles)	2	59	2	-	-	-	-
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed (miles)	2	54	1	-	-	-	-
Trails: OHV (miles)	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed (miles)	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	10	204	8	-	-	1	-
Campgrounds: spaces w/ HU	17	619	16	-	-	-	-
Campgrounds: Spaces w/o HU	12	233	11	-	-	1	1
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	13	23	12	-	-	-	-
Hunting Lands, Public (acres)	1	1,000	2	-	-	-	-
Shooting/Archery Range	10	17	3	-	3	2	1
Downhill Ski Areas (acres)	4	8	4	-	-	-	-
Sledding/Tubing Hills	2	2	1	-	-	-	2

Table 2.5: Condition of All Participants' Facilities Ranked by Mean Score

Facility Type	Total Quantity	Condition (% of Respondents)					MEAN
		1 = Excell't	2 = Good	3 = Fair	4 = Poor	5 = V Poor	
Fairgrounds	8	0%	0%	88%	13%	0%	3.13
Tennis Courts	172	25%	16%	14%	25%	21%	3.02
Trails: OHV/Roads (miles)	4,105	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	3.00
Trails: Horse/hiking (miles)	16,939	0%	15%	82%	3%	0%	2.88
Swimming Pools/Water Parks	36	10%	40%	20%	13%	17%	2.87
Ice Skating Rinks	36	11%	11%	63%	16%	0%	2.84
Shooting/Archery Range	18	0%	40%	50%	10%	0%	2.70
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	15	9%	36%	36%	18%	0%	2.64
Basketball Court	207	15%	34%	31%	14%	6%	2.63
Sledding/Tubing Hills (acres)	48	13%	38%	38%	0%	13%	2.63
Skate Parks	7	29%	29%	14%	14%	14%	2.57
Campgrounds: Spaces w/out HU	5,646	2%	49%	48%	2%	0%	2.49
Baseball Fields	212	15%	44%	23%	13%	5%	2.49
Softball Fields	126	10%	45%	36%	7%	2%	2.48
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only (miles)	3,645	14%	31%	49%	6%	0%	2.47
Track, Running	52	27%	22%	36%	9%	7%	2.47
Boat Docks	119	8%	49%	32%	11%	0%	2.46
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, River	176	10%	40%	45%	5%	0%	2.45
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed (miles)	5,594	0%	71%	21%	0%	7%	2.43
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	2,113	5%	51%	44%	0%	0%	2.40
Fishing Access Sites	654	4%	60%	31%	4%	0%	2.35
Picnic Areas	581	10%	50%	38%	2%	1%	2.34
Roller Skating Rinks	3	33%	0%	67%	0%	0%	2.33
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, Lake	159	10%	56%	29%	6%	0%	2.31
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	32	9%	61%	22%	9%	0%	2.30
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpaved (miles)	589	15%	45%	35%	5%	0%	2.30
Soccer Fields	82	25%	36%	25%	14%	0%	2.29
Volleyball Courts	68	13%	47%	41%	0%	0%	2.28
Parks / Open Space (acres)	27,697,566	9%	62%	23%	6%	0%	2.27
Swimming Beaches	26	7%	60%	33%	0%	0%	2.27
Hunting Lands, Public (acres)	19,776,741	5%	74%	18%	2%	2%	2.21
Playgrounds	292	27%	39%	25%	5%	3%	2.19
Campgrounds: Spaces w/ HU	329	27%	36%	27%	9%	0%	2.18
Downhill Ski Areas (acres)	1,206	0%	88%	13%	0%	0%	2.13
Football Fields	83	25%	50%	15%	8%	2%	2.13
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed (miles)	565	11%	67%	22%	0%	0%	2.11
Fitness Courses	15	36%	36%	18%	0%	9%	2.09
Lakes (acres)	463,910	18%	62%	18%	3%	0%	2.06
Golf Courses	12	55%	18%	9%	9%	9%	2.00
Climbing Areas/Walls	7	40%	40%	20%	0%	0%	1.80
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved (miles)	127	40%	50%	5%	0%	5%	1.80

2.5 Condition of Public Facilities

Overall Public Facility Condition Ratings

Facility managers were asked to rate the condition of their existing facilities in each category on a scale of 1 (Excellent) to 5 (Very Poor). Table 2.5 summarizes the statewide facility condition ratings, based on the opinions of facility managers who participated in the survey. Facilities in the poorest condition are listed first (based on mean score) and facilities in better condition are listed last.

Facilities in poorest condition are fairgrounds, tennis courts, off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, horse and hiking trails, and swimming pools. One-third of swimming pools are in poor or very poor condition, as well as nearly half of tennis courts.

Facilities in the best condition are paved bike and pedestrian trails, climbing walls and golf courses. Only 5% of river boat ramps are listed as being in poor condition, and 90% of paved trails are in good or excellent condition. Two-thirds of existing playgrounds are listed in good or excellent condition.

In the next chapter, consumer data reveal that facilities in highest demand are swimming pools, biking and walking trails, fishing facilities, skate parks, ball fields, basketball courts, and camper and RV spaces without hookups. The fact that significant percentages of these facilities are in poor condition is a key issue.

Note that, overall, none of the facility types received an overall mean score of 4.00 (Poor) or 5.00 (Very Poor), indicating a range of facility conditions from Excellent to Poor statewide.

Local Public Facility Condition Ratings

Table 2.6 shows condition ratings of public facilities owned by participating local entities (cities, counties, school districts, park districts, tribes), after responses from state and federal agencies were filtered out. Facilities in poorest condition are listed first (based on mean score) and facilities in better condition are listed last (5=Very Poor, 4=Poor, 3=Fair, 2=Good, 1=Excellent).

In comparison to Table 2.5 on the previous page, some types of facilities owned by participating local entities are rated in poorer condition than the statewide results, such as public hunting lands, lake boat ramps, campgrounds and dump stations, fishing access sites and lakes. Other types of local facilities were rated in better condition than the statewide results, such as walking or hiking trails, skate parks, boat docks, and river boat ramps.

Due to the low survey response rate from cities and counties, these results are only a sampling of local entities, and the condition ratings are based on the facility managers' opinions or perceptions. The results may not be representative of the actual relative conditions of all local facilities statewide.

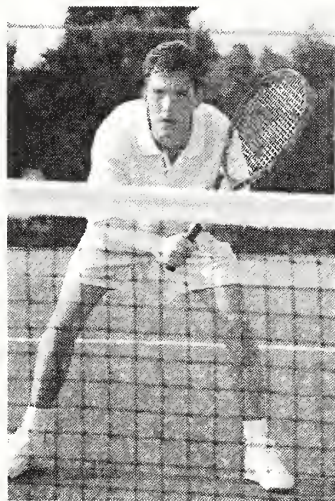


Table 2.6: Condition of Local Facilities by Mean Score

Facility Type	Local Facility Quantity	Number of Survey Participants	Mean
Fairgrounds	8	8	3.13
Tennis Courts	172	43	3.04
Swimming Pools/Water Parks	35	26	2.89
Trails: Horse/hiking (miles)	36	6	2.83
Hunting Lands, Public (acres)	41	6	2.83
Ice Skating Rinks	35	17	2.82
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	15	11	2.64
Basketball Courts	204	66	2.63
Sledding/Tubing Hills	48	8	2.63
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, Lake	6	5	2.60
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	175	5	2.60
Shooting/Archery Range	12	5	2.60
Campground/RV: Spaces w/out HU	374	7	2.57
Fishing Access Sites	26	14	2.50
Campground/RV: Spaces w/ HU	122	4	2.50
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	12	10	2.50
Track, Running	52	45	2.47
Softball Fields	123	39	2.44
Lakes (acres)	65,268	7	2.43
Baseball Fields	212	37	2.41
Skate Parks	6	5	2.40
Roller Skating Rinks	3	3	2.33
Swimming Beaches	8	4	2.25
Parks / Open Space (acres)	22,130	62	2.24
Picnic Areas	262	50	2.24
Soccer Fields	82	27	2.22
Volleyball Courts	65	28	2.21
Playgrounds	282	82	2.19
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, River	7	6	2.17
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only (miles)	75	12	2.17
Fitness Courses	15	11	2.09
Football Fields	83	46	2.04
Boat Docks	5	3	2.00
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpaved (miles)	124	9	2.00
Climbing Areas/Walls	7	5	1.80
Golf Courses	12	10	1.70
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved (miles)	80	15	1.53
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed (miles)	6	2	1.50
Trails: OHV/Roads (miles)	0	0	-
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed (miles)	0	0	-
Downhill Ski Areas (acres)	0	0	-

Table 2.7: Statewide Facility Needs of Participants Ranked by Mean Score

Facility Type	Type of Need (% of Respd'ts)			Priority of Need (% of Respd'ts)					Mean
	Land Acquis'n	New Constr'n	Upgrade/Repair	1 = Low	2	3	4	5 = High	
Hunting Lands, Public (acres)	5%	2%	5%	6%	0%	0%	35%	59%	4.41
Swimming Pools/Water Parks	2%	9%	6%	3%	0%	13%	30%	53%	4.30
Softball Fields	3%	9%	9%	6%	6%	24%	18%	47%	3.94
Fishing Access Sites	11%	16%	14%	4%	9%	17%	30%	40%	3.94
Fairgrounds	0%	1%	3%	13%	0%	25%	13%	50%	3.88
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed (miles)	0%	1%	5%	9%	0%	18%	45%	27%	3.82
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, River	8%	12%	11%	6%	3%	25%	42%	25%	3.78
Parks / Open Space (acres)*	10%	15%	21%	7%	7%	17%	47%	23%	3.73
Soccer Fields	3%	6%	5%	4%	22%	17%	17%	39%	3.65
Boat Docks	2%	8%	12%	8%	11%	19%	35%	27%	3.62
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, Lake	5%	5%	14%	11%	11%	19%	27%	32%	3.59
Trails: Horse/hiking (miles)	0%	4%	12%	6%	6%	18%	65%	6%	3.59
Campgrounds: Spaces w/out HU	8%	13%	21%	6%	6%	22%	59%	8%	3.57
Baseball Fields	2%	6%	6%	7%	11%	37%	7%	37%	3.56
Skate Parks	4%	9%	1%	9%	18%	9%	36%	27%	3.55
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	5%	9%	19%	9%	2%	23%	57%	9%	3.55
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved (miles)	4%	14%	3%	6%	14%	29%	23%	29%	3.54
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only (miles)	5%	17%	16%	8%	6%	29%	44%	13%	3.48
Football Fields	1%	3%	8%	17%	13%	17%	13%	39%	3.43
Lakes (acres)	4%	5%	8%	10%	19%	19%	24%	29%	3.43
Playgrounds	1%	9%	16%	16%	10%	25%	18%	31%	3.39
Track, Running	0%	3%	9%	20%	12%	16%	16%	36%	3.36
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpaved (miles)	5%	14%	10%	8%	18%	28%	28%	20%	3.35
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	0%	6%	4%	11%	21%	21%	21%	26%	3.32
Picnic Areas	3%	11%	32%	8%	14%	26%	44%	8%	3.30
Trails: OHV/Roads (miles)	0%	0%	1%	25%	0%	25%	25%	25%	3.25
Tennis Courts	1%	5%	11%	14%	14%	26%	26%	20%	3.23
Basketball Courts	1%	5%	14%	11%	27%	27%	8%	27%	3.14
Volleyball Courts	1%	6%	5%	13%	13%	35%	26%	13%	3.13
Sledding/Tubing Hills	1%	1%	1%	20%	0%	40%	40%	0%	3.00
Fitness Courses	0%	5%	3%	28%	11%	28%	17%	17%	2.83
Golf Courses	1%	3%	1%	20%	20%	30%	20%	10%	2.80
Swimming Beaches	1%	2%	3%	25%	25%	17%	17%	17%	2.75
Campgrounds: Spaces w/ HU	0%	2%	1%	29%	29%	0%	29%	14%	2.71
Shooting/Archery Range	1%	2%	2%	33%	11%	22%	22%	11%	2.67
Ice Skating Rinks	1%	5%	2%	24%	18%	41%	12%	6%	2.59
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	0%	0%	3%	38%	0%	38%	25%	0%	2.50
Roller Skating Rinks	0%	1%	1%	40%	20%	20%	0%	20%	2.40
Climbing Areas/Walls	0%	5%	0%	18%	27%	55%	0%	0%	2.36
Downhill Ski Areas (acres)	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	2.00
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed (miles)	0%	2%	0%	60%	0%	40%	0%	0%	1.80

2.6 Public Facility Needs

Overall Public Facility Needs

The second survey question asked participants to identify their outdoor recreation facility needs, and to rate those needs on a scale of 1 to 5 (1= Low Priority Need, 5= High Priority Need), based on their opinion and experience. Table 2.7 summarizes the overall public outdoor recreation facility needs. Three categories of need were offered: Land Acquisition, New Construction, and Upgrade/Repair. Managers could select any or all of the three as appropriate in each facility category. Facilities with the highest priority needs are shown first and the lowest priority needs are listed last, based on the overall mean score.

When asked about the type of need, there were more responses for "Upgrade/Repair" to existing facilities (705 responses) than for "New Construction" (558 responses) or "Land Acquisition" (225 responses). Facilities most needing upgrades and repairs are picnic areas, campgrounds without hookups, parks, campgrounds with tent spaces, playgrounds, walking and hiking trails, fishing access sites, basketball courts, boat ramps, horse trails, boat docks and tennis courts.

Facilities most in need of land acquisition are fishing access sites, parks and open space, campgrounds without hookups and river boat ramps. Facilities most in need of new construction are walking and hiking trails, fishing access sites, parks and open space, bike and pedestrian facilities, river boat ramps, campgrounds without hookups, picnic areas, swimming pools, softball fields, skate parks, tent campgrounds and playgrounds.

Top priority needs (based on overall mean scores) are access to hunting lands, swimming pools, softball fields, fishing access sites, fairgrounds, snowmobile trails, boat ramps and docks, parks and open space, and soccer fields. The fact that hunting lands topped the list is interesting. The high need ratings for hunting lands came primarily from state facility managers, and was not indicated as a high priority among local or federal managers.

Public Facility Needs by Region

Table 2.8 compares the outdoor recreation facility needs ratings by region. Fishing and boating facilities are high priorities in regions 1 and 4. Ball fields are needed in regions 3 and 5. Swimming pools are listed in the top six priorities in all regions except 6, and skate parks are high priorities in regions 2, 3 and 6. Walking, hiking, and biking trails are most needed in region 1, 4 and 6, while motorized trails are a priority in Regions 2 and 4. Undeveloped camping (tent spaces, no hookups) is needed in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 7. Parks and open space facilities are most needed in Regions 1, 3 and 4, though they appear in the top third of the list in all regions except Region 6. Hunting lands appear near the top of the list in Regions 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Table 2.8: Comparison of Facility Needs by Region

Region 1	#	Mean	Region 2	#	Mean	Region 3	#	Mean	Region 4	#	Mean	Region 5	#	Mean	Region 6	#	Mean	Region 7	#	Mean
Boat Rmps, Lak	5	4.40	Swim Pools	2	5.00	Camp w/o HU	7	5.86	Trls: Bik/Ped-P	2	4.50	Softball Fields	5	4.80	Trls: Bik/Ped-U	1	5.00	Laks (acres)	2	5.00
Laks (acres)	3	4.33	Trls: OHV	1	5.00	Softball Fields	6	5.00	Trls: Snowmobl	3	4.33	Baseball Fields	4	4.75	Hunting Lands	1	5.00	Camp w/ HU	1	5.00
Fish'g Access	7	4.14	Hunting Lands	6	4.83	Soccer Fields	3	5.00	Boat Rmps, Lak	7	4.29	Soccer Fields	4	4.50	Skate Parks	4	4.50	RV Dump Stn	1	5.00
Boat Docks	10	4.10	Fish'g Access	8	4.50	Fairgrounds	2	5.00	Boat Docks	7	4.29	Swim Pools	6	4.00	Playgrounds	4	4.00	Swim Pools	7	4.57
Swim Pools	5	4.00	Trls: Snowmobl	4	4.50	Skate Parks	2	4.50	Swim Pools	5	4.20	Football Fields	4	4.00	Trls: Bik/Ped-P	3	4.00	Swim Beaches	2	4.50
Track, Running	3	4.00	Skate Parks	2	4.50	Swim Pools	2	4.50	Laks (acres)	5	4.20	Hunting Lands	4	4.00	Ice Skate Rinks	1	4.00	Track, Running	3	4.00
Boat Rmps, Riv	9	3.89	Boat Rmps, Riv	6	4.33	Tennis Courts	3	4.33	Trls: Horse/Hike	5	4.20	Sled/Tube Hill	2	4.00	Shoot/Arch Rng	1	4.00	Football Fields	3	3.67
Camp w/o HU	9	3.78	Playgrounds	7	4.00	Parks/Open Spc	10	4.30	Hunting Lands	5	4.20	B-ball Courts	5	3.60	Fish'g Access	8	3.63	Roll Skate Rink	2	3.50
Parks/Open Spc	11	3.73	Camp: Tent	7	4.00	Boat Docks	4	4.25	Parks/Open Spc	9	4.00	Playgrounds	6	3.50	Picnic Areas	5	3.60	Fairgrounds	2	3.50
Trls: Walk/Hike	12	3.67	Track, Running	5	4.00	Trls: Bik/Ped-P	7	4.14	Boat Rmps, Riv	4	4.00	Fish'g Access	6	3.50	Golf Course	2	3.50	V-ball Courts	2	3.50
Trls: Bik/Ped-U	10	3.50	Tennis Courts	3	4.00	Fish'g Access	10	4.00	Trls: Walk/Hike	4	4.00	Parks/Open Spc	8	3.25	Tennis Courts	7	3.43	Boat Rmps, Lak	2	3.50
Camp: Tent	8	3.50	Football Fields	2	4.00	Camp: Tent	8	4.00	Trls: Bik/Ped-U	4	4.00	Trls: Bik/Ped-P	6	3.17	Trls: Walk/Hike	3	3.33	Boat Rmps, Riv	2	3.50
Softball Fields	6	3.50	Camp w/ HU	1	4.00	Baseball Fields	4	4.00	Softball Fields	3	4.00	Trls: Walk/Hike	12	3.08	Camp w/o HU	5	3.20	Fish'g Access	2	3.50
Trls: Horse/Hike	6	3.50	Parks/Open Spc	12	3.83	Boat Rmps, Lak	4	4.00	Skate Parks	1	4.00	Boat Rmps, Riv	5	3.00	Baseball Fields	4	3.00	Camp: Tent	2	3.50
Football Fields	4	3.50	Camp w/o HU	10	3.80	RV Dump Stn	3	4.00	Camp: Tent	10	3.90	Fairgrounds	2	3.00	Softball Fields	4	3.00	Parks/Open Spc	9	3.44
Trls: Snowmobl	2	3.50	Softball Fields	5	3.80	Horse Arenas	2	4.00	Fish'g Access	6	3.83	Trls: Bik/Ped-U	6	2.83	Swim Pools	3	3.00	Picnic Areas	10	3.40
Trls: Bik/Ped-P	10	3.40	Boat Rmps, Lak	9	3.78	Track, Running	2	4.00	RV Dump Stn	5	3.80	Camp: Tent	8	2.75	RV Dump Stn	2	3.00	Fitness Course	3	3.33
Skate Parks	5	3.20	Boat Docks	7	3.71	Hunting Lands	1	4.00	B-ball Courts	4	3.75	Laks (acres)	4	2.75	Fitness Course	1	3.00	Softball Fields	5	3.20
V-ball Courts	5	3.20	Trls: Walk/Hike	15	3.60	B-ball Courts	6	3.83	Camp w/o HU	9	3.67	Trls: Horse/Hike	6	2.67	Fairgrounds	1	3.00	Trls: Bik/Ped-P	4	3.00
Playgrounds	11	3.18	Baseball Fields	4	3.50	Trls: Bik/Ped-U	6	3.83	Track, Running	5	3.60	Skate Parks	3	2.67	Horse Arenas	1	3.00	Tennis Courts	6	3.00
Baseball Fields	4	3.00	RV Dump Stn	2	3.50	Boat Rmps, Riv	9	3.78	Picnic Areas	12	3.58	Camp w/o HU	8	2.63	Boat Rmps, Riv	1	3.00	Trls: Walk/Hike	5	3.00
Swim Beaches	3	3.00	Picnic Areas	14	3.36	Trls: Horse/Hike	8	3.75	Baseball Fields	4	3.50	Boat Rmps, Lak	7	2.57	Football Fields	4	2.75	Baseball Fields	3	3.00
Picnic Areas	17	2.94	V-ball Courts	4	3.25	Picnic Areas	14	3.64	Soccer Fields	2	3.50	Tennis Courts	4	2.50	Camp: Tent	4	2.75	Camp w/o HU	3	3.00
Tennis Courts	8	2.88	Trls: Bik/Ped-U	9	3.11	Trls: Walk/Hike	12	3.50	Playgrounds	5	3.40	V-ball Courts	3	2.33	B-ball Courts	7	2.71	Boat Docks	2	3.00
B-ball Courts	7	2.71	Trls: Bik/Ped-P	3	3.00	Football Fields	4	3.50	V-ball Courts	3	3.33	Picnic Areas	5	2.20	Soccer Fields	4	2.50	Ice Skate Rinks	1	3.00
RV Dump Stn	5	2.60	Ice Skate Rinks	1	3.00	V-ball Courts	4	3.50	Tennis Courts	4	3.25	Boat Docks	4	2.00	V-ball Courts	2	2.50	Horse Arenas	1	3.00
Climbing Walls	2	2.50	Climbing Walls	1	3.00	Trls: OHV	2	3.50	Shoot/Arch Rng	3	3.00	Ice Skate Rinks	3	2.00	Track, Running	5	2.40	Playgrounds	7	2.86
Ice Skate Rinks	5	2.40	Fairgrounds	1	3.00	Sled/Tube Hill	2	3.50	Roll Skate Rink	1	3.00	Golf Course	3	2.00	Boat Rmps, Lak	3	2.00	Skate Parks	5	2.80
Fitness Course	5	2.40	Trls: Horse/Hike	9	2.89	Fitness Course	7	3.43	Ice Skate Rinks	2	2.50	Shoot/Arch Rng	2	2.00	Boat Docks	3	2.00	B-ball Courts	5	2.80
Camp w/ HU	3	2.33	B-ball Courts	3	2.67	Playgrounds	11	3.27	Football Fields	2	2.50	Horse Arenas	3	1.67	Climbing Walls	1	2.00	Trls: Bik/Ped-U	4	2.50
Shoot/Arch Rng	3	2.33	Laks (acres)	5	2.40	Golf Course	4	3.25	Horse Arenas	1	1.00	Roll Skate Rink	2	1.00	Camp w/ HU	1	2.00	Climbing Walls	2	2.50
Soccer Fields	4	1.00	Swim Beaches	2	2.00	Climbing Walls	3	3.00	Golf Course	-	-	Fitness Course	2	1.00	Parks/Open Spc	1	1.00	Soccer Fields	2	2.50
Roll Skate Rink	-	-	Soccer Fields	4	1.00	Swim Beaches	3	3.00	Fitness Course	-	-	Climbing Walls	2	1.00	Roll Skate Rink	-	-	Golf Course	1	2.00
Golf Course	-	-	Fitness Course	-	-	Trls: XC, Grmd	2	3.00	Climbing Walls	-	-	Track, Running	2	1.00	Laks (acres)	-	-	Trls: Horse/Hike	-	-
Fairgrounds	-	-	Roll Skate Rink	-	-	Trls: Snowmobl	1	3.00	Fairgrounds	-	-	Swim Beaches	2	1.00	Swim Beaches	-	-	Trls: XC, Grmd	-	-
Horse Arenas	-	-	Golf Course	-	-	Dwnhl Ski Area	1	3.00	Swim Beaches	-	-	Trls: XC, Grmd	2	1.00	Trls: Horse/Hike	-	-	Trls: OHV	-	-
Trls: XC, Grmd	-	-	Horse Arenas	-	-	Ice Skate Rinks	4	2.75	Trls: XC, Grmd	-	-	Trls: OHV	1	1.00	Trls: XC, Grmd	-	-	Trls: Snowmobl	-	-
Trls: OHV	-	-	Trls: XC, Grmd	-	-	Laks (acres)	2	2.50	Trls: OHV	-	-	Trls: Snowmobl	1	1.00	Trls: OHV	-	-	Hunting Lands	-	-
Hunting Lands	-	-	Shoot/Arch Rng	-	-	Roll Skate Rink	-	-	Camp w/ HU	-	-	Camp w/ HU	1	1.00	Trls: Snowmobl	-	-	Shoot/Arch Rng	-	-
Dwnhl Ski Area	-	-	Dwnhl Ski Area	-	-	Camp w/ HU	-	-	Dwnhl Ski Area	-	-	RV Dump Stn	1	1.00	Dwnhl Ski Area	-	-	Dwnhl Ski Area	-	-
Sled/Tube Hill	-	-	Sled/Tube Hill	-	-	Shoot/Arch Rng	-	-	Sled/Tube Hill	-	-	Dwnhl Ski Area	1	1.00	Sled/Tube Hill	-	-	Sled/Tube Hill	-	-

Table 2.9: Local Participants' Facility Needs & Priorities

Facility Type	Type of Need			Priority of Need					Mean
	Land Acq'n	New Constr'n	Upgrade/Repair	1 = Low	2	3	4	5 = High	
Swimming Pools	2%	9%	7%	15%	0%	12%	24%	48%	3.91
Softball Fields	3%	9%	8%	12%	6%	21%	18%	42%	3.73
Playgrounds	1%	6%	15%	13%	11%	27%	16%	33%	3.44
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved	3%	12%	0%	13%	10%	27%	20%	30%	3.43
Soccer Fields	3%	6%	5%	16%	16%	16%	20%	32%	3.36
Basketball Courts	1%	5%	13%	11%	26%	26%	9%	29%	3.17
Tennis Courts	1%	5%	11%	17%	14%	23%	26%	20%	3.17
Parks / Open Space	4%	6%	10%	24%	8%	19%	27%	22%	3.14
Track, Running	0%	3%	9%	29%	11%	14%	14%	32%	3.11
Baseball Fields	2%	6%	6%	25%	9%	28%	6%	31%	3.09
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpaved	1%	9%	2%	21%	17%	21%	21%	21%	3.04
Football Fields	1%	2%	8%	31%	12%	15%	12%	31%	3.00
Trails: Walking/Hiking Only	3%	10%	2%	30%	7%	20%	30%	13%	2.90
Volleyball Courts	1%	6%	5%	21%	13%	33%	25%	8%	2.88
Skate Parks	1%	6%	0%	33%	21%	4%	21%	21%	2.75
Picnic Areas	0%	5%	13%	26%	21%	21%	23%	10%	2.72
Fitness Courses	0%	5%	2%	40%	10%	20%	15%	15%	2.55
Campgrounds: RV Dump Stations	0%	2%	1%	45%	18%	0%	9%	27%	2.55
Fairgrounds	0%	1%	3%	57%	0%	14%	7%	21%	2.36
Fishing Access Sites	0%	2%	2%	43%	21%	14%	0%	21%	2.36
Swimming Beaches	0%	1%	1%	50%	0%	25%	17%	8%	2.33
Campgrounds: Spaces w/out HU	0%	2%	1%	50%	10%	10%	20%	10%	2.30
Ice Skating Rinks	1%	5%	2%	43%	13%	30%	9%	4%	2.17
Golf Courses	1%	3%	1%	50%	13%	19%	13%	6%	2.13
Lakes	0%	0%	1%	70%	0%	10%	0%	20%	2.00
Sledding/Tubing Hills	1%	1%	1%	60%	0%	20%	20%	0%	2.00
Boat Docks	0%	1%	0%	73%	0%	0%	18%	9%	1.91
Trails: Horse/hiking	0%	2%	1%	55%	18%	9%	18%	0%	1.91
Campgrounds: Spaces w/ HU	0%	1%	1%	67%	11%	0%	11%	11%	1.89
Shooting/Archery Range	0%	1%	1%	60%	10%	20%	10%	0%	1.80
Climbing Areas/Walls	0%	4%	0%	56%	11%	33%	0%	0%	1.78
Campgrounds: Tent Spaces	0%	1%	1%	67%	0%	22%	11%	0%	1.78
Roller Skating Rinks	0%	1%	1%	69%	8%	15%	0%	8%	1.69
Hunting Lands, Public	0%	0%	0%	83%	0%	0%	0%	17%	1.67
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	0%	0%	3%	71%	0%	21%	7%	0%	1.64
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, River	0%	1%	0%	70%	0%	30%	0%	0%	1.60
Boat Ramps/Launch Sites, Lake	0%	1%	1%	88%	0%	0%	13%	0%	1.38
Trails: XC Ski, Groomed	0%	1%	0%	86%	0%	14%	0%	0%	1.29
Downhill Ski Areas	0%	0%	0%	86%	0%	14%	0%	0%	1.29
Trails: OHV/Roads	0%	0%	0%	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%	1.14
Trails: Snowmobile, Groomed	0%	0%	0%	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%	1.14
Total Number of Responses	78	298	297	276	84	150	121	156	

Local Public Facility Needs

Table 2.9 summarizes the public facility needs reported by local entities after state and federal agency responses were filtered out.

The stronger emphasis on need for urban (community-based) facilities is predictable, based on mean scores. Compared to the statewide results, land acquisition is not reported to be nearly as strong of a need for local entities as upgrades or repairs, or new construction, which were cited equally.

Ranked by mean scores, swimming pools, ball fields, playgrounds and urban (paved) trails were the top priority needs, followed by play courts, parks and open space and running tracks.

Based on the percentage of local facility managers who rated each facility type as a high priority need (score of 4 or 5), the highest priority needs are for swimming pools (72% rated this facility type as a 4 or 5), softball fields (60%), soccer fields (52%), paved bike and pedestrian trails (50%), playgrounds (49%), parks and open space (49%), tennis courts (46%), running tracks (46%), football fields (43%), walking and hiking trails (43%), skate parks (42%), unpaved bike and pedestrian trails (42%), basketball courts (38%), baseball fields (37%) and RV dump stations (36%). These results likely are reflective of the high turnout of school district participants in the survey, because many of the most needed facility types typically are affiliated with schools.

Note in Table 2.9 that 83% of local participants cited hunting lands as a "low" priority, but 17% (nearly one-in-five) listed hunting lands as a "high" priority. There appears to be some polarization about the need for public hunting lands among local recreation facility managers--most likely depending on the region of the state in which they are located. Priority ratings of lakes were similar.

Comparison of Local vs. State vs. Federal Facility Needs

Table 2.10 provides a comparison of the top priority needs (based on mean scores) of local, state and federal survey participants. Not surprisingly, the top priority needs of local entities are urban, or community-based facilities such as swimming pools, ball fields, fairgrounds, bike and pedestrian trails, parks, playgrounds and skate parks. The top needs of state and federal agencies are more rural recreation facilities, such as hunting and fishing facilities, trails,

boating and camping facilities. State agencies expressed a greater need for hunting lands and groomed snowmobile trails, while federal agencies expressed a greater need for boat ramps, backcountry trails (horse/hiking) and undeveloped camping facilities. The fourteen state agency participants gave high need ratings to hunting lands, which affected the overall ratings.

Table 2.10: Comparison of Local vs. State vs. Federal Participants' Facility Needs

Local Facility Type	#	Mean	State Facility Type	#	Mean	Federal Facility Type	#	Mean	Overall Facility Type	#	Mean
Swimming Pools	30	4.30	Hunting Lands, Public	14	4.57	Boat Ramps, River	6	4.50	Hunting Lands, Public	17	4.41
Softball Fields	32	4.00	Fishing Access Sites	30	4.23	Fishing Access Sites	6	4.17	Swimming Pools	30	4.30
Fairgrounds	8	3.88	Trails: Snowmob, Groom'd	9	4.22	Boat Ramps, Lake	16	3.94	Fishing Access Sites	47	3.94
Soccer Fields	22	3.77	Parks/Open Space	29	3.97	Trails: Horse/hiking	25	3.88	Softball Fields	34	3.94
Baseball Fields	26	3.65	Boat Ramps, River	25	3.92	Campgrd: RV w/o HU	25	3.76	Fairgrounds	8	3.88
Trails: Bike/Ped, Pav'd	29	3.62	Boat Docks	15	3.80	Trails: Walk'g/Hik'g Only	21	3.76	Trails: Snowmob, Groom'd	11	3.82
Parks/Open Space	30	3.60	Trails: Bike/Ped, Pav'd	4	3.75	Campgrds: Tent	25	3.72	Boat Ramps, River	36	3.78
Playgrounds	44	3.57	Skate Parks	7	3.71	Boat Docks	17	3.65	Parks/Open Space	60	3.73
Skate Parks	15	3.47	Shooting/Archery Ranges	3	3.67	Picnic Areas	21	3.62	Soccer Fields	23	3.65
Campgrds: RV Dump Stn	7	3.43	Boat Ramps, Lake	18	3.56	Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpav'd	5	3.60	Boat Docks	37	3.62
Football Fields	23	3.43	Lakes	16	3.56	Campgrds: RV Dump Stn	6	3.17	Boat Ramps, Lake	37	3.59
Track, Running	25	3.36	Campgrds: Tent	18	3.50	Trails: OHV/Roads	2	4.50	Trails: Horse/hiking	34	3.59
Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpav'd	22	3.32	Campgrd: RV w/o HU	20	3.45	Swimming Beaches	2	2.00	Campgrd: RV w/o HU	51	3.57
Trails: Walk'g/Hik'g Only	26	3.30	Picnic Areas	21	3.38	Trails: Bike/Ped, Pav'd	2	2.00	Baseball Fields	27	3.56
Swimming Beaches	8	3.25	Trails: Walk'g/Hik'g Only	16	3.38	Hunting Lands, Public	1	5.00	Campgrds: Tent	47	3.55
Basketball Courts	35	3.23	Campgrds: RV Dump Stn	6	3.33	Playgrounds	1	3.00	Skate Parks	22	3.55
Tennis Courts	35	3.23	Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpav'd	13	3.31	Baseball Fields	1	1.00	Trails: Bike/Ped, Pav'd	35	3.54
Campgrd: RV w/o HU	6	3.17	Trails: Horse/hiking	2	3.00	Basketball Courts	1	1.00	Trails: Walk'g/Hik'g Only	63	3.48
Volleyball Courts	21	3.14	Campgrd: RV w/ HU	3	2.33	Fitness Courses	1	1.00	Football Fields	23	3.43
Fitness Courses	16	3.06	Playgrounds	6	2.17	Parks/Open Space	1	1.00	Lakes	21	3.43
Picnic Areas	35	3.06	Swimming Beaches	2	1.50	Shooting/Archery Ranges	1	1.00	Playgrounds	51	3.39
Boat Docks	5	3.00	Softball Fields	1	5.00	Soccer Fields	1	1.00	Track, Running	25	3.36
Campgrd: RV w/ HU	4	3.00	Volleyball Courts	1	5.00	Softball Fields	1	1.00	Trails: Bike/Ped, Unpav'd	40	3.35
Fishing Access Sites	11	3.00	Basketball Courts	1	2.00	Trails: XC Ski, Groom'd	1	1.00	Campgrds: RV Dump Stn	19	3.32
Lakes	5	3.00	Fitness Courses	1	1.00	Volleyball Courts	1	1.00	Picnic Areas	77	3.30
Sledding/Tubing Hills	5	3.00	Ice Skating Rinks	1	1.00	Campgrd: RV w/ HU	0		Trails: OHV/Roads	4	3.25
Golf Courses	10	2.80	Baseball Fields	0		Climbing Areas/Walls	0		Tennis Courts	35	3.23
Campgrds: Tent	4	2.75	Climbing Areas/Walls	0		Downhill Ski Areas	0		Basketball Courts	37	3.14
Trails: Horse/hiking	7	2.71	Downhill Ski Areas	0		Fairgrounds	0		Volleyball Courts	23	3.13
Ice Skating Rinks	16	2.69	Fairgrounds	0		Football Fields	0		Sledding/Tubing Hills	5	3.00
Horse/Rodeo Arenas	8	2.50	Football Fields	0		Golf Courses	0		Fitness Courses	18	2.83
Roller Skating Rinks	5	2.40	Golf Courses	0		Horse/Rodeo Arenas	0		Golf Courses	10	2.80
Shooting/Archery Ranges	5	2.40	Horse/Rodeo Arenas	0		Ice Skating Rinks	0		Swimming Beaches	12	2.75
Climbing Areas/Walls	11	2.36	Roller Skating Rinks	0		Lakes	0		Campgrd: RV w/ HU	7	2.71
Boat Ramps, River	5	2.20	Sledding/Tubing Hills	0		Roller Skating Rinks	0		Shooting/Archery Ranges	9	2.67
Boat Ramps, Lake	3	2.00	Soccer Fields	0		Skate Parks	0		Ice Skating Rinks	17	2.59
Trails: XC Ski, Groom'd	4	2.00	Swimming Pools	0		Sledding/Tubing Hills	0		Horse/Rodeo Arenas	8	2.50
Hunting Lands, Public	2	3.00	Tennis Courts	0		Swimming Pools	0		Roller Skating Rinks	5	2.40
Trails: OHV/Roads	2	2.00	Track, Running	0		Tennis Courts	0		Climbing Areas/Walls	11	2.36
Trails: Snowmob, Groom'd	2	2.00	Trails: OHV/Roads	0		Track, Running	0		Downhill Ski Areas	2	2.00
Downhill Ski Areas	2	2.00	Trails: XC Ski, Groom'd	0		Trails: Snowmob, Groom'd	0		Trails: XC Ski, Groom'd	5	1.80

= Number of respondents

Mean: 5 = High Priority, 1 = Low Priority Facility types with only 1 respondent are listed last because mean is not reflective.

Table 2.11: Facilities Needed to Serve Local Youth

Statewide		Local		State/Fed Agency	
Playgrounds	23	Swim pools/Wtr Parks	22	Education/Interp	19
Swim Pools/Wtr Parks	22	Playgrounds	21	Fishing Access Sites	13
Education/Interp	21	Soccer Fields	16	Parks/Open Space	5
Soccer Fields	16	Softball Fields	16	Trails: Bike/Ped	4
Softball Fields	16	Tennis Courts	13	Playgrounds	2
Tennis Courts	13	Track, Running	12	Swimming Beaches	1
Fishing Access Sites	13	Baseball Fields	9	Boating (not specified)	1
Track, Running	12	Football Fields	9	Camp: Tent Spaces	1
Baseball Fields	9	Basketball Courts	7		
Football Fields	9	Picnic Areas	5		
Parks/Open Space	8	Skate Parks	5		
Trails: Bike/Ped	8	Parks/Open Space	4		
Basketball Courts	7	Trails: Bike/Ped	4		
Picnic Areas	5	Hunting Lands, Public	3		
Skate Parks	5	Trails: Walking/Hiking	3		
Hunting Lands, Public	3	Education/Interp	2		
Trails: Walking/Hiking	3	Restrooms	2		

Facility Needs for Specific Customer Segments

Tables 2.11 through 2.14 list the types of public facilities needed to address the needs of specific customer segments. The responses are listed statewide, and by local, state, and federal agency responses. State and federal agency participants tended to list identical needs for all customer segments.

To serve youth, local managers expressed strong needs for playgrounds, swimming pools, ball fields and tennis courts (Table 2.11). State and federal agency managers reported a need for educational or interpretive facilities and programs, and fishing access sites.

To serve adults, local managers reported a need for swimming pools, bike and pedestrian trails and tennis courts, while agency managers listed fishing access sites as the top need, followed by educational and interpretive facilities, and parks and open space (Table 2.12).

Table 2.12: Facilities Needed to Serve Local Adults

Statewide		Local		State/Fed Agency	
Fishing Access Sites	18	Swim Pools/Wtr Parks	15	Fishing Access Sites	14
Swim Pools/Wtr Parks	16	Trails: Bike/Ped	13	Education/Interp	12
Trails: Bike/Ped	17	Tennis Courts	10	Parks/Open Space	7
Education/Interp	12	Softball Fields	6	Trails: Bike/Ped	4
Parks/Open Space	11	Picnic Areas	6	Trails: Walking/Hiking	2
Tennis Courts	10	Trails: Walking/Hiking	5	Boat Ramps: River	2
Softball Fields	7	Ftns Course/Wlkg Track	5	Boat Ramps: Unspecified	2
Trails: Walking/Hiking	7	Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved	5	Hunting Lands, Public	2
Picnic Areas	6	Fishing Access Sites	4	Softball Fields	1
Ftns Course/Wlkg Track	5	Parks/Open Space	4	Swim Pools/Wtr Parks	1
Hunting Lands, Public	5	Golf Course, Drvg Rge	4	Campgrounds	1
Trails: Bike/Ped, Paved	5	Hunting Lands, Public	3	Skate Parks	1
Golf Course, Drvg Rge	4	Baseball Fields	3	Horse/Rodeo Arenas	1
Baseball Fields	3	Track, Running	3	Lakes	1
Boat Ramps: River	3	Playfields	2	Volleyball Courts	1
Track, Running	3	Soccer Fields	2	Handicap Access	1



To serve mature adults (age 50+), local managers listed bike and pedestrian trails, swimming pools and walking, hiking and fitness trails as the top needs (Table 2.13). Agency managers listed fishing access sites, followed by educational and interpretive activities, and parks and open space.

Finally, to serve visitors (tourists), local managers listed swimming pools, picnic areas, and parks and open space as the top needs, while agency managers listed educational and interpretive facilities, fishing access sites, and parks and open space (Table 2.14).



Table 2.13: Facilities Needed to Serve Local Mature Adults

Statewide		Local		State/Fed Agency	
Trails: Bike/Ped	19	Trails: Bike/Ped	14	Fishing Access Sites	14
Fishing Access Sites	16	Swimg Pools/Wtr Parks	10	Education/Interp	10
Parks/Open Space	11	Trails: Walking/Hiking	9	Parks / Open Space	7
Education/Interp	12	Fitns Course/Wlkg Track	8	Trails: Bike/Ped	5
Swimg Pools/Wtr Parks	10	Picnic Areas	5	Boat Ramps unspecified	4
Trails: Walking/Hiking	10	Parks/Open Space	4	Campgrounds	2
Fitns Course/Wlkg Track	8	Tennis Courts	3	Boat Ramps: River	2
Boat Ramps: not specified	5	Fishing Access Sites	2	Handicap Access	2
Picnic Areas	5	Handicap Access	2	Hunting Lands	1
Handicap Access	4	Campgrnd: w/ Hookup	2	Trails: Walking/Hiking	1
Campgrounds	3	Trails: Bike/Ped, paved	2		
Tennis Courts	3	Track, Running	2		
Boat Ramps: River	2	Education/Interp	1		
Campgrnd: w/ Hookup	2	Boat not specified	1		
Trails: Bike/Ped, paved	2	Campgrounds	1		
Track, Running	2	Restrooms	1		

Table 2.14: Facilities Needed to Serve Non-local Visitors/Tourists

Statewide		Local		State/Fed Agency	
Education/Interp	16	Swimg Pools/Wtr Parks	12	Education/Interp	14
Parks/Open Space	12	Picnic Areas	10	Fishing Access Sites	9
Swimg Pools/Wtr Parks	12	Parks/Open Space	5	Parks/Open Space	7
Picnic Areas	11	Trails: Bike/Ped	5	Campgrounds	5
Fishing Access Sites	9	Campgrounds	4	Trails: Bike/Ped	3
Campgrounds	9	Playfields	4	Restrooms	2
Trails: Bike/Ped	8	Restrooms	3	Boat Ramps unspecified	2
Restrooms	5	Fairgrounds	3	Campgrnd: w/ Hookup	2
Boat Ramps unspecified	4	Education/Interp	2	Hunting Lands, Public	2
Playfields	4	Boat Ramps unspecified	2	Picnic Areas	1
Campgrnds: w/ Hookup	3	Baseball Fields	2	Boat: River	1
Fairgrounds	3	Playgrounds	2	Trails: Walking/Hiking	1
Baseball Fields	2	Softball Fields	2		
Boat Ramps: River	2	Tennis Courts	2		



Facility Needs for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Compliance

One of the survey questions asked about facility needs related to ADA compliance (e.g., which types of facilities need ADA-related improvements, and the specific type of access needed). Table 2.15 summarizes the responses of survey participants who listed ADA-related facility and access needs. The most needed facility type is accessible, ADA-compliant restrooms, followed by facilities related to fishing, picnicking, camping and boating. Other facility upgrades needed for ADA compliance relate to paths and trails, playgrounds, swimming pools and hunting blinds. The specific type of access that is needed most is wheelchair access, including width and grade improvements. Other responses included replacement of gravel and dirt with paving on parking areas, RV pads, paths for restroom and boat access and bike/pedestrian trails. A sampling of respondents' answers to the ADA question is shown below.

Table 2.15: ADA Compliance Needs

ADA Facility Type	# of Responses
ADA Restrooms	26
Fishing Access Sites	19
Parks, Picnic Areas	19
Camping Sites	17
Boat/Lake Ramps	15
ADA Buildings	7
Play Field Paths	6
Paved Bike/Ped Trails	9
Playgrounds	6
Pools	5
Hunting Blinds	1
Type of Access Needed	# of Responses
Wheelchair Access	33
Paved Parking Areas	23
ADA Access: width, grade	20
Paved Campground RV Pads	12
Paved Paths to Restrooms	12
Paved Boat Paths/Ramps	10
ADA Entrance Ramps	5
Paved Bike/Ped Paths	3

ADA Facility Type Needed		Type of ADA Access Needed	
Access to the track area	Other park areas	2nd floor accessibility, a lift	Hard pack and wide
Athletic complex	Outdoor path	Accessible equipment disabled kids	Hard surface site, tables, fire rings
Baseball fields	Park bathroom facility	Accessible fishing areas	Hard surface to latrines
Bathrooms	Park building	Accessible latrine and access trail	Lift or ramp into pool
Beaches	Park/picnic area	Accessible pads, parking	Means for disabled to access boats
Boat docks	Parking areas	Accessible sidewalks, trails	Means to access water vessels
Boat launch facilities	Parks/playgrounds	ADA access to the water	New building, parking, sidewalk
Boat ramps/courtesy docks	Paths to facilities	ADA accessible types at sites	New construction, facility
Buildings	Picnic areas/tables	ADA hard surface to latrine entrance	No restrooms at all
Camp facilities	Picnic areas, picnic shelters	Additional hard surface walk ways	Off-street parking, ramps and walks
Campgrounds/sites	Playground	Appropriate sloped ramp	Paved access to scenic vistas
Camping	Playground equipment	Barrier free access and fixtures	Paved parking and access
City park	Public restroom at city park	Barrier free access to play element	Paved surfaces for parking and mobile
Designated campsites	Public restrooms	Bathrooms that meet standards	Paved trails
Elementary school	River access	Camping pads	Paved walkway
Existing group use building	Sidewalks & parking areas	Campsites, signs, drinking fountain	Physical handicap
Facilities	Soccer field	Complete ADA upgrade	Ramps
Fairgrounds	Softball field	Concrete path and vehicle parking	Renovation required, grips, ramps
Fishing access/sites	Some campgrounds	Concrete trails	Restrooms
Fishing access - river	Some picnic shelters	Curb cuts/ parking spaces	Shower doors, additional railing
Football fields/bleachers	Some playgrounds	Disabled landing sites	Some accessible campsites
Football/track complex	Some restrooms	Dock to allow ADA folk into boats	Surfacing
Fishing access site/lake	Sports complex bathrooms	Docks, trails, signs	Surfacing and equipment
Handicapped hunting blind	Swimming pool	Doorways/new facility	Tables to accommodate wheel chairs
Hiking and interpretive trails	Swimming pool building	Easier for the user to access boats	Trail access
Kiosk w/ info	Tennis/basketball courts	Easy to get to	Universal accessibility
Lake access if feasible	Toilet facilities	Entrance, stalls	Upgraded parking and walks
Lake area (recreation easement)	Trails	Equipment, trail access	Walkways
Mountain hiking trails	Vault toilets	Facilities for handicapped youths	Wheelchair accessible path/surface
Nature trails	Walkways to latrines	Handicap accessibility	Wider doors, ramps, stalls, gates, ramp

2.7 Estimated Costs to Meet Public Facility Needs

Survey participants were asked to provide estimates of the costs to fulfill their facility needs--excluding land acquisition. Table 2.16 summarizes the responses of all participants, and of local, state and federal participants separately. Individual local needs range from \$300 (to upgrade a picnic facility) to \$14.5 million (for parks/open space). The total amount of money needed to fulfill local participants' needs

is \$95.2 million. Individual state facility needs range from \$2,000 (for a boat ramp) to \$100 million (for parks/open space), with a total of \$153 million. Individual federal facility needs range from \$1,000 (for a basketball court) to \$2.8 million (for bike/pedestrian trails), with a sum of \$19.3 million for all federal needs.

Table 2.16: Estimated Costs to Fulfill Facility Needs

	All Participants		Local Facility Cost Estimates					State Facility Cost Estimates					Federal Facility Cost Estimates				
	N	SUM	N	Minim \$	Maxim \$	SUM	Mean	N	Minim \$	Maxim \$	SUM	Mean	N	Minim \$	Maxim \$	SUM	Mean
Parks/Open Spc	41	141,696,998	16	2,000	14,500,000	26,951,998	1,684,500	24	5,000	100,000,000	113,745,000	4,739,375	1	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Picnic Areas	61	2,778,800	23	300	150,000	600,800	26,122	18	2,000	250,000	797,000	44,278	20	10,000	500,000	1,381,000	69,050
Skate Parks	17	5,037,500	11	3,000	1,000,000	2,837,500	257,955	6	100,000	600,000	2,200,000	366,667	0				
Ice Skate Rinks	9	7,565,000	8	2,000	7,000,000	7,560,000	945,000	1	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0				
Roll Skate Rinks	2	133,000	2	8,000	125,000	133,000	66,500	0					0				
Golf Courses	4	1,272,000	4	2,000	1,000,000	1,272,000	318,000	0					0				
Fitness Course	10	85,000	9	5,000	20,000	77,000	8,556	0					1	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Climbing Walls	7	89,000	7	2,000	40,000	89,000	12,714	0					0				
Fairgrounds	3	6,260,000	3	85,000	6,000,000	6,260,000	2,086,667	0					0				
Horse Arenas	2	450,000	2	50,000	400,000	450,000	225,000	0					0				
Baseball Fields	15	931,500	14	2,000	450,000	906,500	64,750	0					1	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Softball Fields	21	1,707,778	20	1,000	900,000	1,682,778	84,139	0					1	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Football Fields	16	1,517,000	16	1,500	750,000	1,517,000	94,813	0					0				
Soccer Fields	17	1,146,000	16	500	650,000	1,121,000	70,063	0					1	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Track, Running	18	1,296,500	18	1,000	250,000	1,296,500	72,028	0					0				
V-ball Courts	14	387,500	13	500	200,000	377,500	29,038	0					1	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
B-ball Courts	29	3,163,800	28	1,000	2,500,000	3,162,800	112,957	0					1	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Tennis Courts	23	1,341,000	23	1,000	350,000	1,341,000	58,304	0					0				
Playgrounds	33	1,382,500	28	1,500	350,000	1,142,500	40,804	4	10,000	60,000	140,000	35,000	1	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Swim'g Pools	21	18,920,000	21	10,000	5,500,000	18,920,000	900,952	0					0				
Lakes	12	5,382,000	3	52,000	450,000	727,000	242,333	9	5,000	2,500,000	4,655,000	517,222	0				
Boat Ramps-Lak	27	3,594,000	1	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	13	5,000	1,500,000	3,000,000	230,769	13	10,000	125,000	571,000	43,923
Boat Ramps-Riv	34	3,119,000	2	10,000	20,000	30,000	15,000	26	2,000	500,000	2,827,000	108,731	6	12,000	85,000	262,000	43,667
Boat Docks	28	3,738,000	2	4,500	20,000	24,500	12,250	12	8,000	2,500,000	3,203,000	266,917	14	3,500	100,000	510,500	36,464
Swim'g Beaches	7	149,250	4	1,250	75,000	114,250	28,563	0					3	5,000	20,000	35,000	11,667
Fish'g Access	44	9,677,000	7	1,000	500,000	667,000	95,286	31	15,000	2,500,000	8,785,000	283,387	6	10,000	85,000	225,000	37,500
Trails: Walk/Hike	46	4,400,500	14	5,000	500,000	1,480,000	105,714	14	5,000	500,000	1,437,000	102,643	18	2,500	230,000	1,483,500	82,417
Trails: Bike/Ped	23	9,570,000	17	15,000	3,500,000	5,535,000	325,588	4	60,000	1,000,000	1,220,000	305,000	2	15,000	2,800,000	2,815,000	1,407,500
Trails: Bike/Ped-U	23	3,124,000	9	10,000	200,000	565,000	62,778	9	2,000	1,000,000	1,587,000	176,333	5	75,000	500,000	972,000	194,400
Trails: Horse/Hike	29	2,805,000	1	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	4	5,000	130,000	210,000	52,500	24	35,000	250,000	2,585,000	107,708
Trails: XC-Grnd	2	190,000	1	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	0					1	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Trails: OHV	2	150,000	0					0					2	30,000	120,000	150,000	75,000
Trails: Snowmobl	5	200,000	0					5	10,000	100,000	200,000	40,000	0				
Camp: Tent	51	2,863,000	2	5,000	12,000	17,000	8,500	26	1,000	500,000	2,009,000	77,269	23	5,000	95,000	837,000	36,391
Camp: w/ HU	4	660,000	2	35,000	75,000	110,000	55,000	2	50,000	500,000	550,000	275,000	0				
Camp: w/o HU	53	6,144,000	3	2,000	30,000	57,000	19,000	25	10,000	1,000,000	2,277,000	91,080	25	5,000	1,200,000	3,810,000	152,400
RV Dump Stn	16	1,563,000	4	1,000	70,000	86,000	21,500	8	2,000	500,000	1,257,000	209,500	6	15,000	50,000	220,000	36,667
Hunting Lands	10	9,440,000	1	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	8	5,000	1,000,000	2,340,000	292,500	1	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000
Shoot/Arch Rng	7	820,000	2	15,000	300,000	315,000	157,500	4	5,000	400,000	480,000	120,000	1	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Dwnhill Ski Area	1	2,000,000	1	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	0					0				
Sled/Tube Hills	2	665,000	2	65,000	600,000	665,000	332,500	0					0				
TOTALS		267,414,626		7,524,050	55,610,000	95,214,626	15,763,372		312,000	117,045,000	152,924,000	8,339,171		3,652,000	9,579,000	19,276,000	5,753,754

N = Number of survey participants who provided a cost estimate. Minim \$ = Lowest amount indicated by any one participant. Maxim \$ = Highest amount indicated by any one participant.

SUM = Sum of all participants' estimated costs for a given type of facility. Mean = Average estimated cost (sum divided by number of participants) for a given type of facility.

**Recreation Facility Manager
Comments about their Greatest
Challenges & Obstacles**

"Challenges of the many types of users, and recreational activities of each. Obstacles of limited resources, and overcrowding of the sites."

"Trying to keep up the needs of the visitor and maintaining the sites on limited resources."

"Public demand for recreation programs, sites and facilities continually increases while funding levels remain static or decrease. Securing sufficient funding levels to adequately maintain sites and facilities that are continually receiving increased use."

"Stretching the budget to meet all the needs of the sites, and the visitors"

2.8 Summary & Implications of Outdoor Recreation Facility Supply

Montana has an extraordinary diversity of natural and man-made outdoor recreation facilities for both residents and nonresidents to enjoy. Because of the limited number of facility managers who participated in the online survey, the inventory of facilities presented in this chapter is incomplete. However, participants' ratings of facility conditions and needs do provide a statewide sampling of priorities for local, state and federal recreation programs over the next five years.

Clearly, existing facilities are in need of attention: there were three times more responses for facilities needing upgrades or repairs than for new land acquisition, and 25% more responses for upgrades or repairs than for new construction. At the local level, facility needs mentioned most frequently were swimming pools, ball fields, playgrounds, fairgrounds, bike and pedestrian trails and skate parks. Key state and federal needs included upgrades to fishing access sites, motorized and non-motorized trails, parks, boating facilities, campgrounds and interpretive facilities. A significant number of survey participants also expressed needs related to ADA compliance at existing facilities. However, the funds required to fulfill all of the facility needs far exceed the available local, state or federal resources.

To adequately maintain and enhance Montana's supply of outdoor recreation facilities, managers face a number of challenges. As detailed in the next chapter, there is increasing demand for recreational facilities and services, and an aging population. Moreover, managers are experiencing rising costs for management and maintenance of their facilities, declining state and federal recreation budgets, and the need for additional or alternative sources of funding. Chapter 4 discusses these issues further, and Chapter 5 proposes objectives and actions to address them.



CHAPTER 3: DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

This chapter summarizes the “demand” for outdoor recreation facilities in Montana, based on a number of consumer studies and data that are described herein. The “demand” refers to the level of resident and nonresident need or desire for outdoor recreation facilities, services and programs. A 1999-2000 National Survey on Recreation & the Environment (NSRE) was conducted by the USDA Forest Service and the University of Tennessee, and found that “outdoor recreation is still a basic part of the American lifestyle: traditional land, water, snow and ice settings are still very much in demand as places for casual activities such as walking, picnicking, family gatherings, sightseeing and visiting nature centers or nature trails.” The results of consumer research in Montana contained in this chapter are consistent with the national research.

This chapter is organized into eight sections:

- 3.1 Methodology for Measuring Demand
- 3.2 Overview of Resident & Nonresident Market Demographics
- 3.3 BRFSS Survey of Resident Outdoor Recreation Habits & Needs
- 3.4 ITRR Resident & Nonresident Recreation Study Results
- 3.5 Comparison of BRFSS, ITRR & Recreation Provider Results
- 3.6 National Recreation Trends
- 3.7 Summary & Implications

3.1 Methodology for Measuring Demand

The planning team used several recent consumer studies and data trends to assess demand for outdoor recreation facilities. The key studies were the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS); the Montana Resident 1998-1999 Pleasure Travel Survey; the 1999 Report of Recreation Participation Patterns by Montana Residents; and the 2000-2001 Nonresident Visitor Study, all of which were conducted by the University of Montana Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research (ITRR). Additionally, the planning team reviewed resident and nonresident recreation licensing data trends from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), and national recreation research from the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), American Recreation Coalition (ARC), America Outdoors (AO) and the NSRE.

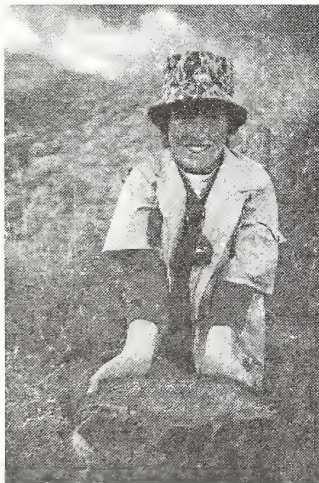
BRFSS: In 2002, Montana State Parks formed a partnership with the Cardiovascular Health Program of the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services. Together, the departments requested inclusion in Montana’s annual BRFSS survey from the CDC. Nationally, BRFSS is the single largest telephone survey in the world, and has been collecting and reporting national health behavior data since 1984. Various modules, such as Alcohol Consumption, Cholesterol Awareness, Tobacco Use, and Health Care Access, make up the core of BRFSS. These data are reported to the CDC each year and become part of the national health database.

Chapter 3:

Demand for Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- ♦ Methodology
- ♦ Overview of Resident & Nonresident Consumers
- ♦ BRFSS Results
- ♦ ITRR Resident Studies
- ♦ ITRR Nonresident Data
- ♦ National Recreation Trends & Implications
- ♦ Summary & Implications

Demand, *n.* An urgent or pressing requirement. The desire and means to purchase goods. The amount of goods purchased at a specific price. The state of being sought for purchase or use.



Montana's population grew by 13% from 1990 to 2000, and is expected to top 1 million by 2010. It is the 4th oldest population in the nation.

Every state must provide the core questions to be included in this ongoing data collection effort; however, states may choose to add a module of state-specific questions. Montana State Parks worked with DPHHS to create an outdoor recreation module for Montana. This module, the first of its kind nationally, was deemed suitable by the Montana BRFSS Working Group for inclusion in the 2002 survey. The data collected were used to evaluate outdoor recreation facility demand for this Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The planning team obtained the BRFSS data set from the CDC contractor, created a custom algorithm to weight the data according to CDC standards, and analyzed the data for inclusion in the SCORP (see section 3.3). By the end of December 2002, 4,036 Montanans had participated in the BRFSS survey. Only adults age 18 and over were interviewed, and the questions asked related to their personal recreation habits and needs, so outdoor recreation information about youth is not represented in the BRFSS data.

TIA, ITRR & BBER: The Tourism Industry Association (TIA) conducts ongoing national tourism research, which is monitored by the planning team for comparison with Montana tourism research. In 1998-1999, the Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research (ITRR) at the University of Montana conducted a year-long resident recreation and leisure travel study, followed by a statewide nonresident travel study in 2000-2001. In 1995, ITRR completed a statewide Trail Users Study, and the Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER) at the UM conducted a study on Snowmobiling in Montana in 2002. These studies provided data to the planning team about primary recreational activities, trends and demand of both Montanans and nonresident visitors on a seasonal and year-round basis.

Unfortunately, the BRFSS, BBER and ITRR studies were conducted at different times and for different purposes, so it is not possible to make direct comparisons between the data collected. However, it is possible to compare the relative levels of various outdoor recreation activities, and in the case of the ITRR studies, to identify changing trends from previous studies. The BRFSS outdoor recreation module was limited (by CDC) to eight questions, which were determined prior to the involvement of the SCORP planning team. Therefore, the scope of the data collected is narrow; however, the quantity of questionnaires completed is extensive, so the results are representative of Montana's adult population at large.

FWP & MVD: The planning team also reviewed Montana resident and nonresident conservation, hunting and fishing license/tag/permit trends from 1990 to 2002, based on data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and resident and nonresident recreational motor vehicle registration trends (OHV, snowmobile and boat) from 1990 to 2002, based on data from Montana Motor Vehicle Division (MVD).

3.2 Overview of Resident & Nonresident Market Demographics

Montana's population grew by 13% from 799,065 in 1990 to 902,195 in 2000, and is expected to top one million citizens by 2010. Moreover, Montana hosted 9.6 million nonresident visitors to the state in 2001 (ten times the state population). This section provides demographic information about both Montana residents and nonresident visitors, as context for the recreation demand data presented in the subsequent sections.

Characteristics of Montanans, and Changes Since 1990

According to the 2000 U.S. census, Montana is home to 902,195 citizens, which is an increase of 103,130 since 1990. Most of the growth took place in western and south central Montana counties, while most of eastern Montana's counties lost population over the decade (Figure 3.1). While eight of Montana's fifty-six counties saw population growth of more than 20% from 1990 to 2000, twenty-two counties actually were depopulating. The implications are increased demand for recreation facilities in high growth areas, and decreased ability to pay for existing facilities in areas that have lost residents (taxpayers).

In 2000, the median age in Montana was 37.5, compared to the nationwide median age of 35.3. Montana has the fourth oldest population in the U.S. As Table 3.1 shows, Montana's population of 20-44 year olds is 3.3% lower than the national average, and the state's population of residents age 45 and older is higher than the national average (37.8% versus 34.4%). Montana loses many of its young adults after they graduate from high school or college because of a lack of jobs, and many new residents are couples moving to Montana to retire. Montana also is seeing the effects of the aging Baby Boomers and people living longer: the number of residents age 45 to 54 grew by 64.1% from 1990 to 2000, the number of residents age 55 to 59 grew by 38.7%, and the number of people age 85 and older grew by 43.7%. Figure 3.2 on the next page shows the percentages of county population over age 65 in 1997 and 2025 (projected). The dark shaded areas indicate the counties where 18% or more of the residents are over age 65. In other words, nearly one-in-five Montanans will be age 65+ in all but seven counties by 2025. As the population ages, there is likely to be more demand for less-strenuous activities like walking, golf, fishing, and picnicking.

The average Montana household size in 2000 was 2.45 people (vs. 2.59 nationally). One-third (33.3%) of Montana households have children under age 18, and 23% are married couples with children, while the remaining 10.3% are single parent homes or non-family households (unrelated people living together). About one-third of households (30.6%) are married couples with no children (or no children at home). Nearly one-quarter (23.4%) of households have someone age 65 or older, and in 10% of households, that person lives alone. Nine in ten Montanans (90.6%) are white, while 6.2% are American Indian and the remaining 3.2% are Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, some other race or a mixture of races.

Figure 3.1

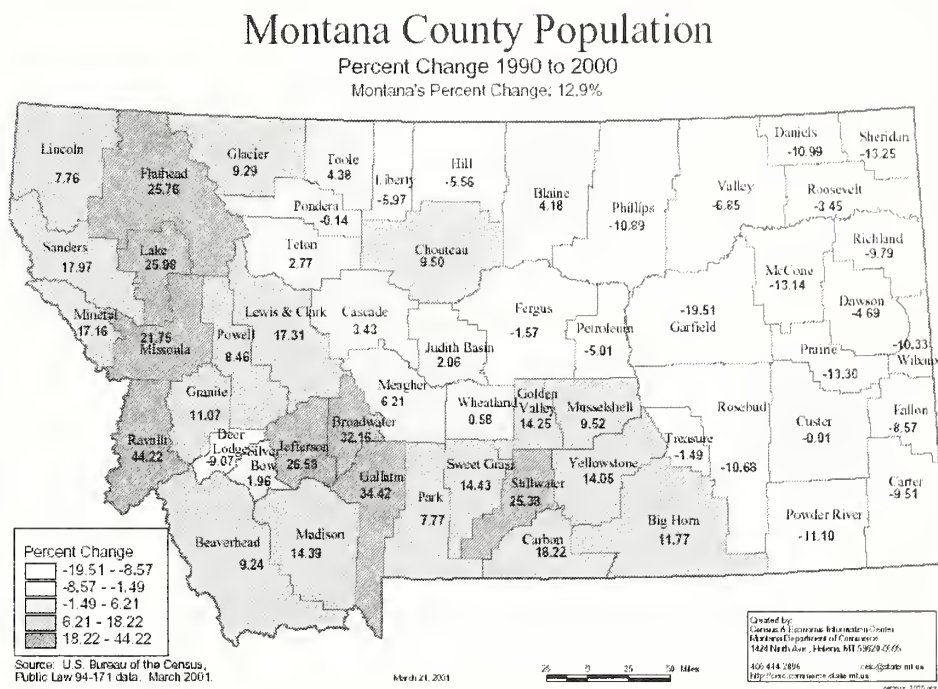
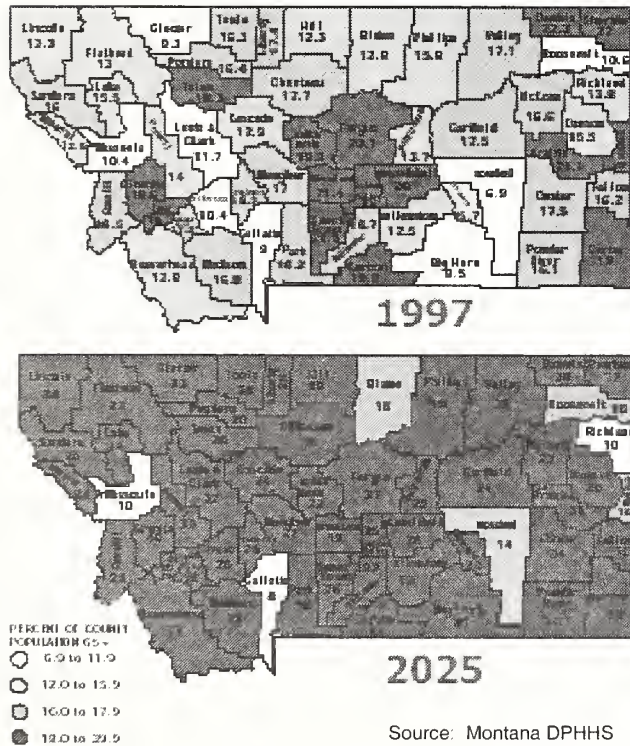


Table 3.1
Montana vs. U.S. Population in 2000

Age	MT %	Group %	U.S. %	Group %	Diff (MT-US)
<5	6.1		6.8		
5-9	6.9		7.3		
10-14	7.7		7.3		
15-19	7.9	28.6	7.2	28.6	0.0
20-24	6.5		6.7		
25-34	11.4		14.2		
35-44	15.7	33.6	16.0	36.9	-3.3
45-54	15.0		13.4		
55-59	5.2		4.8		
60-64	4.2	24.4	3.8	22.0	2.4
65-74	6.9		6.5		
75-84	4.8		4.4		
85+	1.7	13.4	1.5	12.4	1.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census

Figure 3.2
Percent of County Population Age 65+



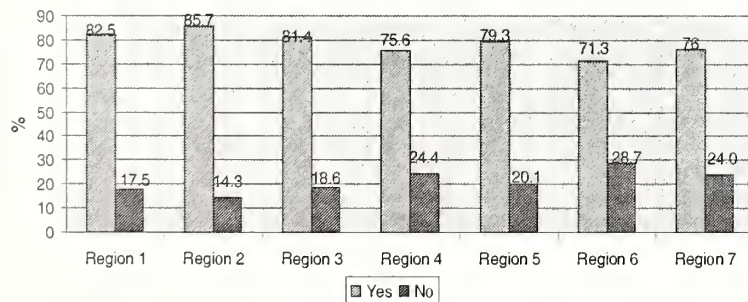
Montana's median household income is \$33,024 statewide, but it is less than \$30,000 in 29 of the 56 counties (and less than \$25,000 in Petroleum, Wheatland and Roosevelt Counties). The median household income exceeds \$35,000 in Rosebud, Yellowstone, Lewis & Clark, Gallatin, Stillwater and Jefferson Counties. In 1999, 14.6% of Montana's population lived in poverty. In eleven counties, the number of people in poverty exceeded 20% of the population (Wheatland, Golden Valley, Big Horn, Petroleum, Garfield, Judith Basin, Chouteau, Liberty, Glacier, Blaine and Roosevelt). The poverty rate was less than 10% in only two counties (Jefferson and Stillwater).

Fifty years ago, Montana had one of the highest per capita income rates in the nation, and now it has one of the lowest at \$17,151, which is 58% below the national average. This trend is due mainly to declines in resource-based industries, which historically provided family-wage jobs (mining, forestry, agriculture, ranching, manufacturing). Those jobs have not been replaced by other industries providing family-wage jobs to the same workforce. While there has been growth in the government, services, retail, wholesale, construction, communications, and public utilities sectors, many jobs in the highest growth sectors are low-paying jobs (e.g., retail, services). Moreover, education and workforce training/re-training programs have not kept up with economic changes.

As part of the general health section in the BRFSS survey, participants were asked the following question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises, such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise?" Overall, 80.3% of Montanans answered "Yes", and 19.6% answered No. Figure 3.3 shows the results of the question in each FWP region of the state. According to University of Montana research, Montanans take more leisure trips than the U.S. average. Some residents appear to be willing to accept lower wages as a trade-off for quality of life: living in Montana, they have more opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Figure 3.3: BRFSS Survey Results 2002

Physical Activity/Exercise Participation in Past Month, by FWP Region



The implications of the demographic data about Montanans are that outdoor recreation managers need to focus not only on facilities and programs for youth (29% of the population) and young adults (34% of the population), but increasingly for mature adults (38% of the population and growing). Because of Montana's struggling economy and low income population, affordability of outdoor recreation is a key issue, as is the limited ability of businesses and citizens to pay higher taxes for it. This is one area where tourism benefits Montana: nonresidents help pay for outdoor recreation facilities and programs, as described in the next section. However, nonresidents' contribution to funding Montana services and facilities is not being maximized because taxes and fees charged to nonresidents are lower than in many other states.

Characteristics of Montana's Nonresident Visitors

In 2001, Montana hosted 9.6 million nonresident visitors – a 46% increase from 6.5 million visitors in 1990 – and they spent \$1.7 billion in the state. About 59% (5.7 million) of the visitors came during the summer (June-September), about 20% (1.9 million) came in winter (December-March), about 12% (1.1 million) came in spring (April-May) and 9% (995,502) came in fall (October-November).

During the same time period, hotel lodging sales increased by 85%, but after an adjustment for inflation, the real dollar growth rate was about 41% (half of the growth in gross sales was due to inflation – price increases – rather than growth in volume). Tourism in Montana is very seasonal: hotel occupancies average 75% or more in peak season (July-September), but they drop below 50% (or lower) for six months of the year – which is below break-even point for most hotel businesses (Figure 3.4).

Montana's nonresident visitors came primarily from neighboring states and Canadian provinces, California and the Midwest (Figure 3.5). Table 3.2 on the next page provides details about the origins of the travelers by season.

The top ten states of origin and the number of travel *groups* from each were:

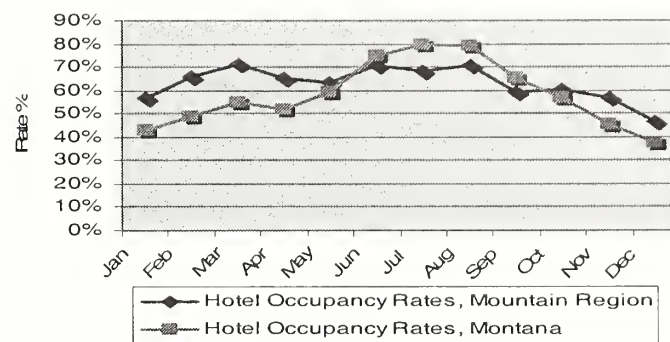
Washington	466,000	Alberta, CAN	206,000
North Dakota	354,000	Minnesota	204,000
California	306,000	Colorado	163,000
Wyoming	297,000	Oregon	155,000
Idaho	261,000	Utah	124,000

The characteristics of the travelers by season were the following:

In winter, the average travel party size was 2.4 people who spent \$111 per day, stayed 3.1 nights and had a household income of \$60,000-\$80,000 (more than twice the average household income of Montanans). Most were repeat visitors, and two-thirds were couples or singles – only 18% were traveling with children (most of those were just passing through). Nearly 40% came from North Dakota and Wyoming – many of them skiers, snowmobilers or day trip visitors coming to shop in Billings. About one-third of winter visitors were just passing through Montana on the way to somewhere else, 23% were vacationing in Montana, 18% were traveling for business reasons, and 16% were visiting friends or relatives in Montana (many of them for the holidays).

In spring, the average travel party size was 2 people who spent \$96 per day, stayed 3 nights and was less affluent than the winter visitor (average income of \$40-60,000).

Figure 3.4: Montana Average Hotel Occupancy, 2001



Source: Smith Travel Research

Figure 3.5



Table 3.2: Origin of 2001 Nonresident Visitors

Place of Residence	Winter Dec-Mar	Spring Apr-May	Summer Jun-Sept	Fall Oct-Nov
Total # of Grps	801,562	579,300	2,267,140	432,827
Alberta, CAN	7%	5%	4%	7%
Arizona	2%	<1%	3%	0%
British Columbia	2%	2%	2%	0%
California	3%	5%	10%	6%
Colorado	6%	2%	4%	3%
Florida	<1%	<1%	3%	0%
Idaho	3%	10%	6%	10%
Michigan	<1%	4%	2%	2%
Minnesota	5%	5%	5%	5%
New York	<1%	4%	2%	0%
North Dakota	22%	9%	4%	8%
Oregon	3%	4%	4%	4%
Saskatchewan	3%	<1%	1%	0%
South Dakota	3%	2%	1%	0%
Texas	3%	2%	3%	3%
Utah	<1%	2%	4%	5%
Washington	8%	12%	12%	14%
Wisconsin	<1%	8%	2%	0%
Wyoming	17%	7%	4%	7%
Other Western	<1%	4%	5%	2%
Other MW/East	2+	2+	18+	2%
Overseas	<1%	<1%	3%	0%

Source: ITRR Nonresident Visitor Study Reports 2001-7, 2002-2/5/8

Most were couples or singles – only 10% were traveling with children, and most of those were visiting friends or relatives. In contrast to winter, only 16% came from North Dakota and Wyoming, while 22% came from Washington and Idaho, nearly 20% from the Midwest, and 5% from California. Nearly half of spring travelers were just passing through, while one-quarter were vacationing, 14% were visiting friends or relatives and 11% were business travelers.

In summer, the average group consisted of 2.5 people (larger than in winter or spring), spent \$110 per day, stayed 4.2 nights (longer than winter or spring), had a household income of \$40-\$60,000, and most had been to Montana before. More than half (55%) were couples or singles, though 41% were couples, and one-quarter were traveling with children (fewer than in 1996). More than 25% came from Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and the Dakotas, while 13% came from other nearby states (UT, OR, CO, NV), 10% from California, 17% from the Midwest, 15% from the East and Southeast, 8% from Canada, 8% from the Southwest (AZ, TX, NM, OK), and 3% from overseas. Half of summer travelers were destination vacationers to Montana, while 21% were just passing through, 15% were visiting friends or relatives and 7% were business travelers.

In fall, the average group consisted of 2.03 people, stayed 3.94 nights, and slightly more than half had incomes of less than \$60,000, although one-quarter of all fall travelers, and 39% of vacationers, earned \$100,000+ (more than any other season, and likely due to nonresident big game hunters traveling to Montana). More than 40% of fall groups were couples, one-quarter were singles and 21% were families (10% with children). Fall visitors originated from Washington (14%), Idaho (10%), North Dakota (8%), Wyoming and Alberta (7% each), California (6%), the Midwest, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Texas, Nevada and Pennsylvania. By comparison, the top states of origin for big game hunters according to Montana FWP are WA, ND, CA, MN, WI, PA, MI, TX, OR, NY, FL and OH. One-third of fall travelers were merely passing through, 29% were vacationing in Montana, one-quarter were visiting friends or relatives and 7% were business travelers.

In every season, the most affluent travelers were business travelers, followed by destination vacationers. The least affluent were the travelers who were visiting friends or relatives in Montana. According to a 1995 study by the American Travel Survey about destination travelers to Montana from Washington, California, Idaho and Wyoming, there were clear differences between travelers from different states. California travelers were primarily destination vacationers, much more affluent and educated than average (60% had some college), preferred to fly rather than drive, and most did not bring children. About one-quarter of them came in winter (presumably destination skiers) and most stayed in hotels and resorts (versus staying with friends or family in Montana). Many Idahoans were business travelers, while most Wyoming travelers were older day trip visitors (one-third were over 50). Many Washingtonians were college students, or destination skiers, but most were visiting family or friends in Montana.

An awareness of the socio-demographic characteristics of Montana residents and nonresident visitors is necessary to assist in the evaluation of current and future demand for outdoor recreation facilities. The next sections (3.3 through 3.5) further evaluate current demand for outdoor recreation facilities in Montana.



3.3 BRFSS Survey of Resident Outdoor Recreation Habits & Needs

In order to assess consumer demand for outdoor recreation facilities in Montana, the Montana Dept. of Health & Human Services (DPHHS) assisted Montana State Parks in developing an outdoor recreation module in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey consisting of the following eight questions:

1. What was the PRIMARY outdoor recreational activity you participated in during the past 12 months?
2. How often did you participate in this outdoor activity in the past 12 months?
3. Are there any outdoor recreational activities you would like to have participated in during the past twelve months, but did not?
4. What is the TOP outdoor recreational activity you would like to have participated in during the past 12 months, but did not?
5. What was the PRIMARY reason you were not able to participate in this activity?
6. Which ONE type of outdoor recreational activity in YOUR COUNTY do you feel is in the greatest need of additional facilities or sites?
7. What do you think is the single MOST important outdoor recreational issue or concern facing YOUR COUNTY today?
8. Sometimes people with a physical disability are prevented from participating in an outdoor recreational activity because of conditions such as lack of facilities, facilities in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or lack of transportation. Has this happened to YOU in Montana in the last 5 years?

BRFSS surveys were conducted from January to December 2002. A total of 4,036 surveys were completed, an average of 336 surveys per month (range = 260 to 450), comprising a very robust data set. The planning team obtained a mid-year data set (January-July data) in August 2002, and a final data set (January-December) in January 2003. An analysis of the mid-year data set was used to help develop many of the recommendations identified within this draft SCORP document, and the final data set was used to confirm the earlier analyses, conclusions, and recommendations.

FWP considers the BRFSS survey to be invaluable in the development of this new SCORP. Nevertheless, all survey instruments have limitations, and it is important for readers to understand the nature of the data collected by the BRFSS outdoor recreation module. BRFSS asked about the respondent's primary recreation activity, not all activities in which the respondent participates. Similarly, the survey asked for one type of facility in Question 6, and one issue or concern in Question Seven. Respondents were asked about their personal recreation habits, not the habits of other people in their household, and only adults age 18 and over were represented in the data. Finally, there were quite a number of respondent answers that were scored to the "other" category, which (except for Question 6) provides no information helpful in assessing consumer demand. Despite these limitations, the BRFSS data is very useful for identifying key issues and trends. When taken in the context of other research about Montanans' recreation habits and preferences, it provides collaborating data on a number of key issues and needs.



Table 3.3: BRFSS Survey Results
Primary Outdoor Recreation Activity - Last 12 Months

Activity	#	%
Walking	445	19.4
Other activity	399	17.4
None	219	9.6
Fishing	156	6.8
Hunting	154	6.7
Golf	103	4.5
Camping	82	3.6
Horseback riding	74	3.2
Refused	64	2.8
Mountain biking	61	2.7
Bicycling - street	59	2.6
Basketball	51	2.2
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	47	2
Don't know/not sure	43	1.9
Backpacking	41	1.8
Swimming	41	1.8
Jogging	40	1.7
Boating-motorized	32	1.4
Boating-nonmotorized	24	1.1
OHV	24	1
Baseball/softball	22	1
Snowmobiling	19	0.8
Tennis	18	0.8
Football	14	0.6
XC Skiing	13	0.6
Soccer	11	0.5
Skateboarding/rollerblading	9	0.4
Picnicking	7	0.3
Volleyball	7	0.3
Rodeo	6	0.3
Ice skating	5	0.2
Playground activities	2	0.1
Sailing	1	0.1
Bird watching	1	0
Fitness course activities	0	0
	2,294	100.2

Primary Outdoor Recreation Activities of Montanans

Table 3.3 summarizes the primary outdoor recreational activities of Montanans during the past twelve months (responses to Question 1). Walking was the most frequently cited activity, which is consistent with national trends (see section 3.6), followed by fishing, hunting, golf, camping and horseback riding. The BRFSS study did not capture the respondents' answers in the "Other activity" category.

The BRFSS activity findings are important in the context of the facility inventory in the previous chapter which indicated needs for trails, fishing access sites, boat ramps and public hunting lands. Swimming appeared lower on the list in the BRFSS activity data than in the facility needs assessment, perhaps because youth age 17 and under were not included in the BRFSS survey.

Primary Recreation Activity Results by Region

Table 3.4 below compares the top twelve responses to Question 1 by Montana's FWP regions. As in the statewide results, walking, other activity and none topped the list in each region. Fishing and hunting are the next primary activities in regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, while basketball and golf move up in regions 5 and 7. Camping appears in all seven regions, and horseback riding in all but region 5. However, some regional differences emerge further down the list. Downhill skiing appears in regions 1, 2 and 4, while swimming appears in regions 1 and 7. Motorized boating and street bicycling appear in regions 4-7, backpacking in regions 2 and 3, and mountain biking in regions 2, 3 and 5.

Note again that activities generally associated with children/youth (swimming, baseball, softball, football, soccer, skateboarding, playground activities) fall toward the lower part of the list because the survey did not specifically seek information about outdoor recreation habits and needs of youth.

Table 3.4: BRFSS Survey Results 2002
Primary Outdoor Recreation Activity by FWP Region

Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6		Region 7	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Other activity	17.6	Other activity	21.1	Other activity	23.5	Walking	21.1	Walking	20.5	Walking	20.6	Walking	25.0
Walking	17.6	Walking	19.1	Walking	17.7	None	14.4	None	14	None	19.0	Other activity	12.5
Fishing	7.7	Hunting	6.2	Fishing	9.3	Other activity	11.6	Other activity	11.3	Other activity	11.9	None	10.2
None	7.2	Mountain biking	6.0	None	7.5	Hunting	7.4	Basketball	6.2	Hunting	8.7	Golf	9.4
Hunting	6.9	Fishing	4.8	Hunting	7.0	Fishing	6.0	Golf	5.7	Fishing	6.3	Fishing	7.8
Golf	5.0	Horseback riding	4.8	Golf	3.3	Golf	5.6	Hunting	5.4	Refused	5.6	Hunting	6.3
Camping	4.4	None	4.1	Camping	3.0	Camping	5.6	Bicycling - street	4.9	Golf	4.8	Horseback riding	4.7
Swimming	4.1	Camping	3.6	Backpacking	2.8	Horseback riding	3.5	Boating - motorized	4.9	Basketball	2.4	Bicycling - street	3.1
Horseback riding	3.3	Refused	3.1	Horseback riding	2.6	Bicycling - street	3.5	Fishing	4.6	Camping	2.4	Boating - motorized	3.1
Refused	3.3	Downhill skiing	2.9	Jogging	2.5	Boating - motorized	3.5	Don't know/not sure	3.5	Horseback riding	2.4	Swimming	3.1
Downhill skiing	3.0	Backpacking	2.9	Mountain biking	2.1	Downhill skiing	2.8	Mountain biking	3.2	Bicycling - street	1.6	Refused	2.3
Basketball	2.5	Golf	2.4	Don't know/not sure	1.9	Boating - nonmotorized	2.5	Camping	3.0	Boating - motorized	1.6	Camping	2.3

Frequency of Outdoor Recreation Activities

Question 2 in the BRFSS Outdoor Recreation module asked participants how often they participated in their primary outdoor recreation activity during the past 12 months. The planning team converted the responses to a monthly frequency, then calculated frequency rates and means for each activity. Table 3.5 at right shows the list of participants' activities in order of most frequent participation to least frequent participation. It indicates that people who participate in certain types of activities tend to be avid participants (for example, bird watchers participate in bird watching an average of 28 times per month, ice skaters an average of 12 times per month, etc.). In this particular question, playground activities appear near the top of the list.

These data support findings about facility needs from the previous chapter, indicating that facilities such as parks and open space, playgrounds, trails (walking, XC skiing, biking, OHV), skate parks, swimming pools and ball fields are important facilities to serve Montanans who enjoy outdoor activities frequently.

Activities that appear high on the list in Table 3.5 that were not listed near the top in Table 3.3 (page 38) were tennis, skateboarding and ice skating. Of those, only skateboarding was cited as a priority need among facility managers (to serve youth).

Table 3.6 below shows a frequency analysis of six key outdoor recreation activities, including the "Other Activity" category. The overall results about frequency of primary activity reveal some interesting trends:

- ◆ One-quarter of Montanans who walk outdoors do so 8-12 times monthly, one-third walk 16+ times
- ◆ 15% of Montanans who fish do so eight or more times per month
- ◆ More than 38% of Montanans who hunt do so four or more times per month
- ◆ 29% of Montanans who golf do so four to twelve times monthly; nearly 20% golf twelve or more times
- ◆ Of Montanans who participate in mountain or street biking, 57% do so more than eight times per month
- ◆ 47% of Montanans who play tennis do so 16+ times per month, while 53% play less than seven times
- ◆ 14% of Montanans who camp do so four to sixteen times per month; 86% camp less than four times
- ◆ 25% of Montanans whose activity involves off-highway vehicles (ATVs, 4x4s, motorcycles) participate 12+ times per month; 38% participate 4+ times per month
- ◆ 37% of Montanans who snowmobile do so four or more times per month
- ◆ Of the people who cited "Other Activity," the majority participated in that activity four times a month or less, while 23% of them participated more than twelve times per month.

Table 3.5: BRFSS Survey Results

Frequency of Activities (Times/Month)

Activity	Mean
Bird Watching	28.0
Playground Activities	16.6
Walking	13.6
Jogging	13.4
Tennis	12.3
Ice Skating	12.0
Skateboarding/Rollerblading	11.2
Bicycling - Street	9.7
XC Skiing	9.5
Mountain Biking	9.1
Swimming	9.0
Football	8.5
Soccer	8.5
Basketball	8.4
Other Activity Not Listed	8.1
Horseback Riding	7.7
Golf	7.4
Rodeo	6.5
Baseball/Softball	6.2
OHV (Off Highway Vehicles)	5.6
Hunting	5.4
Volleyball	5.3
Backpacking	4.6
Boating-Nonmotorized	4.5
Fishing	4.1
Sailing	4.0
Downhill Skiing/Snow Boarding	3.6
Snowmobiling	2.8
Camping	2.1
Boating-Motorized	2.0
Picnicking	0.6

Table 3.6: BRFSS Survey Results 2002

Frequency of Six Key Outdoor Recreation Activities

Times/Month	Walking		Other Activities		Fishing		Hunting		Golf		Camping	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0.0 - 4.0	86	20.6	204	54.0	104	69.7	91	61.8	52	53.0	71	86.0
4.1 - 8.0	61	14.5	50	13.1	25	15.6	33	21.6	16	16.6	6	7.6
8.1 - 12.0	103	24.1	37	9.5	19	12.1	12	7.8	12	11.9	2	2.7
12.1 - 16.0	40	9.3	27	7.3	1	0.9	5	3.1	10	9.7	3	3.8
16.1 - 20.0	57	13.3	32	8.4	2	1.2	0	0.2	3	2.7	0	0.0
20.1+	77	18.2	29	7.7	1	0.7	8	5.7	6	6.1	0	0.0
Total	424	100	379	100	152	100.2	149	100.2	99	100	82	100.1

= Number of participants. % = Percent of participants in each frequency range.

Figure 3.6: BRFSS
Did Not Participate in Rec'n Activities
in Past 12 Months, But Desired To

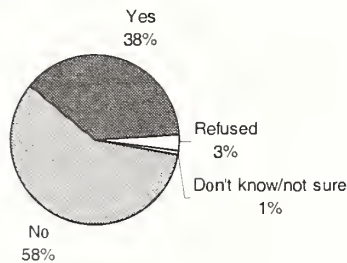


Table 3.7: BRFSS
Activity Unable to Participate In

Activity	#
Other activity not listed	160
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	92
Fishing	71
Don't know/not sure	50
Boating-nonmotorized	42
XC skiing	41
Hunting	38
Camping	36
Golf	35
Walking	34
Swimming	31
Bicycling - street	30
Jogging	28
Horseback riding	21
Backpacking	19
Baseball/softball	19
Mountain biking	19
OHV	15
Boating-motorized	13
Soccer	13
Tennis	9
Snowmobiling	9
Basketball	8
Windsurfing	6
Volleyball	5
None	4
Refused	4
Skateboarding/rollerblading	3
Fitness course activities	2
Picnicking	2
Football	2
Ice skating	2
Sailing	1
Rodeo	0
Total	864

Montanans Who Were Unable to Participate in Outdoor Recreation Activities

The third, fourth and fifth questions on the BRFSS outdoor recreation module asked participants if there were any outdoor recreation activities in which they would like to have participated during the past twelve months, but did not – and if so, which activity and why. The majority of Montanans answered “No,” but 38% said “Yes” (4% refused to answer or were not sure, Figure 3.6). Table 3.7 lists the activities mentioned most frequently as those which Montanans would like to have participated in, but did not. Besides “Other activity not listed,” the most frequently cited activity was downhill skiing and snowboarding, followed by fishing, float boating, cross-country skiing, hunting, camping and golf.

Table 3.8 below shows the responses by FWP region; which varied widely. Region 2 had the highest percentage of residents who answered “Yes” – nearly half of them desired to participate in an activity, but did not. Of the activities named, downhill and cross-country skiing top the list, followed by fishing, golf and mountain biking. In regions 6 and 7, two-thirds of residents answered that there were no activities in which they desired to participate but were unable. Skiing or fishing top the list in all regions except region 4, where bicycling topped the list (but was not mentioned in the top seven activities in the other regions). Walking was high on the list in regions 4, 5 and 7, while cross-country skiing appeared in regions 2 and 3, and golf in regions 2, 5 and 6.

When asked about the primary reason they were not able to participate, more than one-third (36.1%) of the participants answered “Lack of time.” Other reasons cited were “Physical disability” (10.9%), “Cost” (8.9%), “Lack of personal equipment” (4.4%), “Poor health” (4.0%), “Poor environment” (3.3%), “Lack of facilities” (2.9%), “Lack of participants” (2.6%), “Safety concerns” (2.0%) and “Lack of child care” (2.0%). The responses citing physical disability are noteworthy in the context of ADA access and an aging population. Cost and lack of equipment are not surprising answers in relationship to skiing and boating, particularly in the context of the income and poverty data presented earlier in this chapter.

Table 3.8: BRFSS Survey Results 2002
Did Not Participate, But Desired To, by Region

	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6		Region 7	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No	212	58.1	202	48.2	323	56.7	182	63.6	227	61.5	85	66.4	89	69.0
Yes	136	37.3	201	48.0	225	39.5	96	33.6	129	35.0	36	28.1	37	28.7
Refused	12	3.3	13	3.1	18	3.2	5	1.7	11	3.0	7	5.5	3	2.3
DK/NS	5	1.4	3	0.7	4	0.7	3	1.0	2	0.5				
TOTALS	365	100.1	419	100.0	570	100.1	286	99.9	369	100.0	128	100.0	129	100.0

Activity Not Participated In, by Region

Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6		Region 7	
	%		%		%		%		%		%		%
Other activity	22.2	Other activity	19.9	Other activity	18.7	Other activity	22.6	Other activity	11.8	Other activity	12.5	Other activity	20.0
Downhill skiing	12.6	DK/NS	12.4	Downhill skiing	15.6	Bicycling - street	10.8	Fishing	11.0	Fishing	12.5	Fishing	14.3
Fishing	8.9	Downhill skiing	8.5	Fishing	8.0	Walking	10.8	Walking	9.4	Golf	9.4	Walking	11.4
DK/NS	5.9	XC skiing	7.5	Hunting	6.7	Camping	8.6	Jogging	9.4	Baseball/softball	9.4	Swimming	8.6
Camping	5.9	Fishing	6.5	XC skiing	5.8	Downhill skiing	7.5	Downhill skiing	7.9	Camping	9.4	DK/NS	8.6
Hunting	4.4	Golf	5.0	Swimming	5.3	Boating-nonmot	5.4	Golf	6.3	Horseback riding	6.3	Downhill skiing	5.7
Soccer	4.4	Mtn biking	4.5	Camping	3.6	Boating-mot	5.4	Baseball/softball	6.3	Hunting	6.3	Camping	2.9

Outdoor Recreation Activities in Need of Additional Facilities or Sites

The sixth question in the BRFSS outdoor recreation module asked participants “Which one type of outdoor recreational activity in your county do you feel is in the greatest need of additional facilities or sites?” Table 3.9 summarizes the responses about top local facility needs statewide, and Table 3.10 summarizes the results by FWP region. Swimming tops the list statewide, followed by Other Activity (see top eight “Other” activity types responses below Table 3.9), then biking, fishing, walking, skateboarding, field sports, basketball and camping.

At the regional level, note that after “Don’t know/not sure” and “None”, swimming is at the top of the list in every region except Region 4, where it is second to soccer. Skateboarding, soccer, biking, fishing, walking, baseball, softball are other priority needs, according to Montanans.

There are striking similarities in the needs reported by BRFSS respondents, and those reported by recreation facility managers in the online survey. In both surveys, community-based recreation facilities for swimming, biking, walking, skateboarding and field games were ranked highly. Rural recreation facilities were needed for fishing, hiking, biking, boating and camping.

Table 3.9: BRFSS Survey Results 2002

Facility Needs in Respondent's County	
Facility Needs	# Respd'ts
Swimming	197
Other activity	104
Refused	74
Bicycling-street	72
Mountain biking	68
Fishing	67
Walking	66
Skateboarding/rollerblading	64
Baseball/softball	48
Soccer	40
Basketball	37
Camping	36
Backpacking	35
Golf	33
Ice skating	31
Tennis	22
OHV	21
Boating-motorized	20
XC skiing	18
Playground activities	17
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	13
Hunting	12
Fitness course activities	12
Jogging	12
Snowmobiling	12
Boating-nonmotorized	11
Recreational shooting	9
Horseback riding	9
Rodeo	7
Football	6
Windsurfing	3
Volleyball	3
Picnicking	2
Sailing	2
Bird watching	1

Table 3.10: BRFSS Survey Results 2002

Facility Needs by Region

Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6		Region 7	
	%		%		%		%		%		%		%
DK/not sure	29.4	DK/not sure	33.5	DK/not sure	38.3	DK/not sure	38.8	DK/not sure	40.9	DK/not sure	43.0	DK/not sure	38.8
None	15.1	None	16.2	None	12.5	None	9.8	Swimming	9.5	None	7.8	None	11.6
Swimming	11.0	Swimming	8.1	Swimming	8.4	Other activity	7.0	Bicycling-street	6.3	Swimming	6.3	Swimming	10.1
Skateboarding	6.3	Mountain biking	5.1	Other activity	4.6	Soccer	6.3	Basketball	6.3	Refused	6.3	Fishing	7.8
Other activity	5.8	Other activity	4.3	Fishing	3.5	Swimming	5.9	None	4.1	Walking	5.5	Refused	3.1
Bicycling-street	4.9	Baseball/softball	3.8	Bicycling-street	3.2	Baseball/softball	4.5	Walking	4.1	Fishing	5.5	Other activity	3.1
Refused	3.8	Refused	3.1	Skateboarding	3.0	Skateboarding	3.5	Mountain biking	3.5	Other activity	3.9	Boating-motorized	3.1
Mountain biking	3.3	Backpacking	2.4	Refused	2.8	Walking	3.5	Other activity	2.7	Mountain biking	3.1	Basketball	2.3
Walking	3.0	Ice skating	2.4	Walking	2.8	Camping	3.1	Refused	2.7	Golf	3.1	Soccer	2.3
Backpacking	2.5	Bicycling-street	2.1	Mountain biking	2.1	Refused	2.4	Soccer	2.5	Skateboarding	3.1	Baseball/softball	2.3

Top 8 “Other” Activity Types (weighted):

1. Trails: hiking, biking, walking (40)
2. Climbing: rock/mountain, climbing wall (18)
3. Skating rink: ice skating, hockey (15)
4. Youth/teen activities, playgrounds (13)
5. Water-related: water park, pool, raft/boating (12)
6. Parks: general, amusement, leashless (10)
7. Motorized: dirt bike, motor sports racing, motor complex (8)
8. Croquet (7)

Most Important Outdoor Recreation Issue or Concern Facing Montana Counties

The seventh question in the BRFSS outdoor recreation module asked participants what they think is the single most important outdoor recreational issue or concern facing their county today. Table 3.11 shows that, statewide, one-third of the participants did not know or were not sure. At the regional level, the answer “Don’t know or not sure” was given by 27% to 47% of participants. Statewide, about one-quarter gave an answer that was not in the BRFSS list of answer categories (16% to 31% cited some other response at the regional level), and BRFSS did not capture the “Other” responses listed.

Beyond “don’t know” and “other,” all other responses garnered less than 10% of the participants statewide. Of those, need for facilities and inadequate access were top issues, followed by lack of funding. Poor facility conditions were mentioned by 3.1% of participants. A few cited conflict issues: inappropriate behavior of others (3.2%), congestion/crowding (3.1%), commercial use (1.9%) and nonresident use (.7%). The degree of these concerns varied by region. The need for facilities was cited by the highest percentage of participants in regions 2 and 5, and by the lowest percentage in region 4. Inadequate access was higher than the statewide average in regions 1 and 3, and funding was a concern mainly in regions 5 and 7. Conflict issues appeared more prominently in regions 2 and 3, but they were cited by 5% or fewer of participants.

From these responses, it does not appear that overcrowding, use by outfitters and their guests, or nonresident visitor use are major issues to most Montanans, but need for facilities and inadequate access do appear to concern 7-10% of residents in several regions. In regions 4-7, about half of participants did not list a specific issue or concern (they answered “Don’t know,” “None” or refused to answer). In regions 1-3, about 62-63% of participants did list a specific concern (though 25-31% of the responses were “Other”). This analysis indicates that outdoor recreation concerns are focused primarily in Montana’s most populated regions – where high population growth has impacted residents’ recreational experiences. In regions 4-7, the need for more facilities and funding were cited most.



Inadequate access to recreation and poor facility conditions are top priority issues.



Table 3.11: BRFSS Survey Results 2002
Single Most Important Outdoor Recreation Issue or Concern Facing Participant's County

Issue/Concern	Statewide #	Statewide %	Region 1 %	Region 2 %	Region 3 %	Region 4 %	Region 5 %	Region 6 %	Region 7 %
Don't know/not sure	806	35.2	27.4	27.0	32.3	47.0	40.4	45.7	42.6
Other	545	23.7	31.0	28.9	24.6	17.4	19.2	20.5	16.3
Need for facilities	211	9.2	8.2	10.7	9.5	7.0	10.0	9.4	9.3
Inadequate access	129	5.6	7.4	3.1	8.8	5.9	2.4	3.1	6.2
Lack of funding	127	5.6	6.3	3.6	3.9	4.5	10.0	4.7	8.5
None	111	4.8	4.9	5.5	3.5	4.9	4.6	5.5	7.0
Refused	90	3.9	4.7	5.0	2.5	4.2	3.0	5.5	3.1
Inappropriate behavior of enthusiasts	73	3.2	3.3	4.8	4.6	1.0	2.2	2.4	1.6
Poor facility conditions	71	3.1	2.5	2.6	2.8	4.2	3.5	2.4	3.1
Congestion/crowding	71	3.1	1.9	5.5	4.9	2.4	1.4		
Commercial use	44	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.4	1.4	2.4	0.8	1.6
Non-resident use	16	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.4		0.8		0.8
Total	2,294	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.2	99.9	99.9	100.0	100.1

Impact of Physical Disabilities on Recreational Activity

The final question in the BRFSS outdoor recreation module asked participants whether they had ever been prevented from participating in a recreational activity in Montana (in the last five years) because of a physical disability. Overall, 87.5% of participants said “No”. There were two categories of “Yes” answers: 4.1% answered “Yes – but the disabled person was someone else” (spouse, child, etc.), and 4.1% answered “Yes – they had been prevented from participating because of their physical disability.” Another 4.3% of respondents refused to answer the question, or weren’t sure how to answer.

Table 3.12 shows the percentage of responses for each answer statewide and by FWP region. Regions 4 and 7 had the lowest percentage of people who were prevented from recreating because of a disability (less than 5%). The highest incidence of problems with disabilities occurred in regions 1, 2 and 6 (between 9.3% and 11.5%).

Table 3.12: BRFSS Survey Results 2002

Participants Prevented from Recreational Activity Due to Physical Disability

	Statewide		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7
	#	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No	2007	87.5	83.3	86.8	89.5	91.6	87.8	83.6	91.5
Yes (respondent not the disabled)	94	4.1	4.4	6.2	3.7	2.4	4.3	1.6	3.1
Yes	93	4.1	7.1	3.1	3.7	2.4	3.3	7.8	1.6
Refused	71	3.1	3.6	3.1	2.3	2.4	3.0	6.3	2.3
Don't know/not sure	28	1.2	1.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.6	0.8	1.6
Total Yes Responses	187	8.2	11.5	9.3	7.4	4.8	7.6	9.4	4.7
Total Responses	2293	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.1	99.8	100.0	100.1	100.1



Context of BRFSS Data

The BRFSS survey data provide useful insights about Montanans’ recreation habits and the demand for outdoor recreation facilities statewide and by FWP region. However, there are a number of unknowns (demand related to youth, responses to “Other” activities and facilities) that, if known, would provide a more complete picture. For this reason, the planning team also used data from the ITRR resident and nonresident studies detailed in the next sections, and data trends from Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Motor Vehicle Division in order to compare the outdoor recreation activities of Montanans and nonresident visitors.

3.4 ITRR Resident & Nonresident Recreation Study Results

Recreation Habits & Needs of Montanans

From July 1998 to June 1999, the University of Montana Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research (ITRR) conducted telephone interviews with more than 2,600 Montana resident households to study their recreation participation patterns. The study compared yearly, seasonal and monthly recreation participation; compared recreation participation by income level; by household type (with or without children); and it attempted to identify the value that Montana residents place on Montana's natural recreational assets.

Key findings of the survey were the following, as reported in the study's Executive Summary¹:

- ♦ It was typical for only one person in the household to participate in most of the activities.
- ♦ Walking as a recreation activity was always the most participated in activity whether the household had children or not, no matter the season or month, and no difference between income levels.
- ♦ The seasons and months showed differences in recreation participation based on weather-related activities or regulation-related activities such as hunting. However, the top three activities in terms of participation (walking, recreational shopping and wildlife watching) were the same in winter, spring and summer. A difference occurred in the fall with sporting events entering the top three activities (Table 3.13).
- ♦ August was the busiest month with 30% of all households participating in 14 activities. January was the slowest month with 30% of the households participating in only 6 activities.
- ♦ Households with children were far more likely to participate in recreation activities than those without children. Only 6 activities were participated in by over 30% of households without children. In contrast, 14 activities were participated in by over 30% of households with children.
- ♦ Income was a large factor in recreation participation. With almost no exceptions, households earning over \$50,000 annually participated with higher frequency in every type of recreational activity than families earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 annually. Likewise, households earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 participated at a higher frequency in virtually every activity than households earning less than \$20,000 annually. Exceptions to this were ATV/off-road recreation, vehicle camping and gambling, which possess fairly constant levels of participation across all income levels.
- ♦ Montana residents are more active in non-natural resource dependent activities than those that require natural resources. In terms of number of households participating in the activities, nine of the non-resource dependent activities ranked in the top ten while only four of the natural resource dependent activities ranked in the top ten.
- ♦ **Conclusion:** Montana households with higher incomes and Montana households with children are more likely to be active in recreation activities. Only one highly participated in activity, wildlife watching, showed the uniqueness of Montana. Other activities, including walking, recreational shopping and attending sporting events can be participated in regardless of where one lives. The value of Montana's natural recreational resources is unclear since high participation in resource dependent activities is lower than other recreational activities.

Table 3.13

Overall Recreation Activity Participation of Montana Households 1998-99

Activity	%
Walking	75%
Recreational Shopping	53%
Wildlife Watching	52%
Attending Sporting Events	47%
Day Hiking	37%
Biking	35%
Attending Festivals	34%
Swimming	32%
Picnicking	31%
Attending Performances	29%
Participate in Sporting Events	29%
Nature Photography	29%
Visiting Museums	29%
Visiting Interpretive Centers	28%
Fishing (other than fly)	27%
Gambling	24%
Visiting Art Galleries	24%
Motorcycling	22%
Visiting Native American Sites	19%
Hunting	18%
Camping - Tent	18%
Golfing	16%
Horseback Riding	15%
Visiting Attractions	14%
Fly Fishing	13%
Boating - Motorized	13%
Camping - Vehicle	13%
Backpacking	12%
Boating - Nonmotorized	11%
Sledding	11%
ATV/Off-road Recreation	10%
Downhill Skiing	10%
Snowmobiling	7%
Water Skiing	6%
Cross Country Skiing	5%
Ice Fishing	5%
Snowboarding	4%
Snowshoeing	2%

Source. ITRR Report 68

¹ ITRR Research Report 68, *Recreation Participation Patterns by Montana Residents*, Ellard, Nickerson, McMahon, September 1999

Overall, the study showed that the most popular outdoor recreation activities were walking, wildlife watching, attending sporting events, hiking, biking, attending festivals, swimming, picnicking, nature photography, fishing, motorcycling, hunting, camping, golfing, horseback riding and boating. Seasonally, the top twelve activities were as follows (all recreation activities included – outdoor and indoor):

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
1 Walking	1 Walking	1 Walking	1 Walking
2 Rec'l Shopping	2 Wildlife Watching	2 Wildlife Watching	2 Rec'l Shopping
3 Wildlife Watching	3 Rec'l Shopping	2 Rec'l Shopping	3 Attend Sport Event
4 Attend Sport Event	4 Biking	4 Picnicking	4 Wildlife Watching
5 Attend Performance	5 Picnicking	5 Swimming	5 Hunting
5 Day Hiking	5 Attend Sport Event	6 Biking	6 Hiking
5 Partic Sport Event	7 Hiking	6 Attend Sport Event	7 Attend Festivals
8 Attending Festivals	8 Swimming	8 Hiking	8 Attend Perform
9 Biking	9 Partic Sport Event	9 Attend Festivals	9 Nature Photog
10 Swimming	10 Fishing (other than fly)	10 Fishing (non-fly)	10 Visit Museums
10 Visiting Museums	10 Visit Museum/Fest	10 Visit Interp Centers	11 Biking
10 Visiting Art Galleries	10 Nature Photography	12 Visit Museums	11 Visit Interp Ctrs

It is interesting to note that, in winter, sledding ranked 14th, downhill skiing 17th, fishing (non-fly) 18th, snowmobiling 19th, and ATV/off-road recreation 28th on the list of 38 activities. In spring, top activities were dominated by passive recreation, with the addition of attending festivals 13th, visiting interpretive centers 14th, and attending performances 15th. In summer, motorized boating ranked 18th, nonmotorized boating 25th, fly fishing 26th, water skiing 29th, and ATV/off-road recreation 31st. In fall, fishing (non-fly) was 17th, tent camping 21st, fly fishing 22nd, horseback riding 23nd, vehicle camping 24th, and ATV/off-road recreation 28th.

Table 3.14 shows the percentage of households that participate in each of the activities by month. The highlighted figures indicate the peak month(s) for each activity. Among households with children, the top activities are walking, shopping, sporting events, wildlife watching, biking, swimming, hiking, picnicking, festivals and fishing. Among households without children, the top ranked activities are walking, wildlife watching, shopping, sporting events, hiking, festivals, nature photography, museums and performances.

The results of the ITRR study are similar to the BRFSS in that walking, wildlife viewing, hiking, biking, swimming and fishing are popular outdoor recreation activities among Montanans. These findings also are consistent with the survey of facility managers, who expressed needs for trails, parks and open space, swimming pools and fishing and boating facilities to fulfill recreation needs.

The next section discusses the outdoor recreation activities of nonresident visitors to Montana.

Table 3.14

% of Montana Households Participating by Month

Activity	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Walking	73	80	80	81	75	75	76	75	79	78	64	70
Recreational Shopping	50	52	54	54	47	51	57	52	52	59	55	58
Wildlife Watching	53	53	55	52	56	54	59	53	46	55	43	47
Attend Sporting Events	49	58	39	42	39	42	38	47	52	57	47	50
Day Hiking	29	32	31	34	38	38	38	46	44	48	30	32
Biking	19	35	35	45	46	44	42	46	43	34	16	21
Attending Festivals	24	35	29	26	31	36	48	36	36	38	38	34
Swimming	20	26	31	24	41	49	56	47	32	18	16	24
Picnicking	7	15	26	29	44	57	55	59	35	24	13	9
Attend Performances	30	33	34	36	23	25	28	22	29	32	34	28
Particip in Sprtg Events	31	33	32	26	33	29	27	33	27	25	19	28
Nature Photography	22	25	23	26	30	30	34	36	30	36	24	26
Visiting Museums	17	26	33	26	30	32	36	32	34	28	26	23
Visiting Interp Centers	15	22	23	18	31	38	39	38	30	27	25	19
Fishing (other than fly)	21	18	18	18	31	39	36	38	30	24	20	19
Gambling	26	29	23	20	20	26	29	24	18	25	24	20
Vising Art Galleries	23	22	27	22	23	24	22	21	27	26	24	28
Motorcycling	21	26	24	18	20	21	26	17	22	27	22	21
Visit Native Am Sites	15	15	18	14	21	23	26	26	20	19	19	11
Hunting	14	12	10	11	8	5	8	10	26	41	38	25
Camping - Tent	3	10	6	17	27	24	31	30	23	18	14	7
Golfing	3	11	18	28	27	21	24	23	22	13	7	3
Horseback Riding	15	12	16	14	18	17	15	18	19	15	15	10
Visiting Attractions	7	10	11	14	16	19	27	24	16	13	7	7
Fly Fishing	6	8	9	15	14	19	17	22	14	19	11	5
Boating - Motorized	3	3	6	6	15	24	27	29	18	11	4	5
Camping - Vehicle	4	8	8	14	14	19	21	23	15	18	10	7
Backpacking	7	10	10	5	14	15	14	16	14	14	13	7
Boating - Nonmot	3	4	3	4	15	17	27	20	12	8	5	4
Sledding	27	24	11	3	4	1	2	0	0	7	18	33
ATV/Off-road Rec'n	4	9	12	13	10	13	10	12	10	10	9	6
Downhill Skiing	24	24	15	15	3	1	1	1	0	3	9	22
Snowmobiling	18	17	11	7	3	1	1	1	1	1	8	16
Water Skiing	1	1	4	2	3	12	16	20	9	3	1	3
Cross Country Skiing	8	9	5	5	3	0	0	1	2	4	5	11
Ice Fishing	19	11	7	3	3	0	0	0	2	2	4	12
Snowboarding	11	12	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	9
Snowshoeing	3	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	5

Highlights indicate highest months for each activity. Source: ITRR Report 68

Table 3.15

MT Nonresident Traveler Activities		
Activity	# Visitors	%
Shopping	3,606,030	18.6
Wildlife watching	2,697,678	13.9
Day Hiking	2,401,564	12.4
Picnicking	1,954,901	10.1
Camping (devlp)	1,632,460	8.4
Fishing	1,208,550	6.2
Nature Study	847,366	4.4
Gambling	785,264	4.1
Camping (undevlp)	704,911	3.6
Golfing	478,241	2.5
Rafting/Floating	425,728	2.2
Sporting Event	345,092	1.8
Backpacking	296,796	1.5
Off highway/ATV	256,730	1.3
Motor Boating	246,909	1.3
Downhill Skiing	242,262	1.3
Hunting	217,458	1.1
Mtn Biking	215,629	1.1
Road/Tour Biking	213,056	1.1
Canoe/Kayaking	181,445	0.9
Snowmobiling	115,425	0.6
XC Skiing	69,125	0.4
Water-skiing	68,090	0.4
Snowboarding	57,712	0.3
Snowshoeing	57,712	0.3
Ice Fishing	19,237	0.1
	19,345,372	100.0

Source. ITRR 2000-2001 Traveler Study

The appeal of shopping, historic/cultural attractions and events provides clues to potential partnerships and value-added services that could be provided by outdoor recreation facilities to capture more revenue from nonresident visitors.

Recreation Habits & Needs of Nonresident Visitors

From December 2000 through November 2001, ITRR conducted a statewide study of nonresident visitors to Montana. During the twelve month period, 4,220 questionnaires were completed, and used to generate seasonal reports for winter (Dec-Mar), spring (Apr-May), summer (Jun-Sep) and fall (Oct-Nov). Table 3.15 summarizes the overall rankings of nonresident visitor activities year-round. The following is a summary of most popular activities by season.

In winter, primary activities were shopping (41%), wildlife viewing (17%), downhill skiing, day hiking and gambling (12% each). Interest in historic and cultural activities increased from a 1998 study. Less than 15% of winter visitors toured major outdoor attractions (Yellowstone, Glacier, Little Bighorn, Flathead Lake). Skier visits statewide declined from 1998 to 2001, but visits at Big Sky rose 6.5%, and the number of snowmobilers in Yellowstone Park rose 14% during that time period.

In spring, the most frequent activities were shopping (27%), visiting historic sites (22%), camping, hiking, wildlife viewing and picnicking (10-15% each). About one quarter of spring visitors toured Yellowstone Park, while 19% stopped at Glacier and Little Bighorn.

In summer, about one-third of visitors enjoyed shopping, wildlife viewing and hiking, while one-in-four enjoyed picnicking, visiting historic sites and camping. About twenty percent visited museums, went fishing and visited Lewis & Clark and American Indian sites. Fewer than 10% of nonresident visitors participated in gambling, golf or rafting. Nearly half visited Yellowstone Park, one-third visited Glacier, 14% visited Little Bighorn and 7% stopped at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls.

In fall, visitors enjoyed shopping (34%), wildlife watching (22%), hunting (17%), hiking (16%) and fishing (13%). Nearly half (43%) of all destination vacationers in the fall were hunters, and 15% hired one of Montana's licensed outfitters to guide them.

The above information clearly shows that Montana's nonresident visitors enjoy the same outdoor recreation activities as Montana residents, both seasonally and year-round. The appeal of shopping, historic/cultural attractions and events provides clues to potential partnerships and value-added services that could be provided by outdoor recreation facilities to capture more revenue from nonresident visitors.

Montana's Tourism Strategic Plan for 2003-2007 identifies high-value, low-impact visitors as primary target customer segments. These visitors are willing to pay for high quality recreation experiences, and Montana's recreation facility managers need to provide more opportunities for visitors to spend money to support enhanced facilities and services.

3.5 Comparison of BRFSS and ITRR Survey Results and Recreation Trends

Table 3.16 below compares the results of the most popular activities from the BRFSS and ITRR resident and nonresident studies. Key similarities include walking and hiking, wildlife-related activities (viewing, fishing, hunting), swimming, golf, picnicking, biking, boating and camping. Differences appear primarily because the ITRR studies included indoor and outdoor recreation activities, while the BRFSS study focused only on outdoor activities. Other key themes are educational and interpretive activities (learning, historic sites, nature study) and shopping, events and performances. The needs identified by outdoor recreation facility managers parallel the results of the demand data revealed by the BRFSS and ITRR studies. Therefore, the consistency of activity participation provides guidance to facility managers about ways to prioritize needs.



Table 3.16

2002 BRFSS Primary Activity Results			1999 Montanans' Recreational Activities		2001 Nonresidents' Activities	
<u>Activity</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>%</u>
Walking	445	19.4	Walking	75	Shopping	18.6
Other activity	399	17.4	Recreational Shopping	53	Wildlife watching	13.9
Fishing	156	6.8	Wildlife Watching	52	Day Hiking	12.4
Hunting	154	6.7	Attending Sporting Events	47	Picnicking	10.1
Golf	103	4.5	Day Hiking	37	Camping (devlp)	8.4
Camping	82	3.6	Biking	35	Fishing	6.2
Horseback riding	74	3.2	Attending Festivals	34	Nature Study	4.4
Mountain biking	61	2.7	Swimming	32	Gambling	4.1
Bicycling - street	59	2.6	Picnicking	31	Camping (undevelp)	3.6
Basketball	51	2.2	Attending Performances	29	Golfing	2.5
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	47	2.0	Participate in Sporting Events	29	Rafting/Floating	2.2
Don't know/not sure	43	1.9	Nature Photography	29	Sporting Event	1.8
Backpacking	41	1.8	Visiting Museums	29	Backpacking	1.5
Swimming	41	1.8			Off highway/ATV	1.3
Jogging	40	1.7			Motor Boating	1.3
Boating-motorized	32	1.4			Downhill Skiing	1.3
					Hunting	1.1

Source: ITRR Report 68

Source: ITRR 2002-2001 Traveler Study

Table 3.17

U.S. Recreation Participation by Activity Type

Individual trail/street/road activities	87%
Traditional social activities**	80%
Viewing & photographing activities	69%
Viewing & learning activities	67%
Driving for pleasure activities	61%
Swimming activities	60%
Outdoor adventure activities	52%
Boating/floating/sailing activities	36%
Fishing	33%
Snow & ice activities	24%
Outdoor team sports	23%
Hunting	11%

Most “Popular” Individual Activities

	<u>% of Pop’n</u>
Walking	82%
Family gathering*	73%
Visiting a nature center, trail or zoo	56%
Picnicking	56%
Viewing natural scenery	55%
Driving for pleasure thru natural scenery	53%
Sightseeing	52%
Viewing wildflowers & natural vegetation	45%
Visiting an Historic Site	45%
Swimming/Lake, River, Ocean	43%
Viewing wildlife (other than birds)	43%
Bicycling	39%
Visiting a beach	37%
Visiting a wilderness or primitive area	33%
Bird-watching	33%
Hiking	32%
Freshwater fishing	29%

Source: 1999-2000 National Survey on Recreation & the Environment, USDA Forest Service & Univ. of TN, Knoxville

* Such as picnicking, family gatherings, reunions

3.6 National Recreation Trends

The planning team reviewed a number of national recreation and tourism studies and compared the results with the Montana research. Overall, the BRFSS and online survey findings were consistent with national trends. As in Montana, national results from the 1999-2000 National Survey on Recreation & the Environment reveal that top outdoor recreation activities are walking and hiking, nature/wildlife viewing, swimming, picnicking, biking, boating and fishing (Table 3.17).

Other popular activities include driving, visiting historic sites and beaches, and learning activities. Most of the top ranked activities are passive, although 52% of Americans reported participation in outdoor adventure activities (primarily soft adventure such as biking, skiing, snorkeling and horseback riding). Social activities (family gatherings and reunions) are important to 70-80% of all respondents.

These findings are consistent as well with national tourism trends. The Tourism Industry Association of America (TIA) and America Outdoors (AO) recently completed tourism research studies which are summarized by the following trends (see Montana Tourism Strategic Plan 2003-2007, Chapter 3, for details):

1. The Time Crunch Affects Travel Planning
2. Women Make the Decisions
3. Mature Travelers Rule
4. Family Values are Back (Families are Blended & Multi-Generational)
5. History & Culture are the #1 Attraction
6. Festivals Attract One-Fifth of All Travelers, esp. Young Families
7. Rural Places are Appealing
8. Packaged Niche Products are a Key to Success
9. Business Travelers Deserve More Attention
10. Non-Business Meetings & Conventions are Big Business
11. Canadians are Returning
12. Europeans Spend Five Times More Time & Money
13. Adventure and Geo-Tourists are Large Markets
14. Sportsmen Numbers Remain Steady, More Women Join the Club
15. Tourists Shop ‘Til They Drop

Recreation facility managers can benefit from strategic action that exploits tourism trends and high-value visitors to Montana by generating revenue from nonresident visitors that will help them manage and maintain their facilities both for residents and nonresidents.

3.7 Summary and Implications

As Montana's population and the number of nonresident visitors have grown, there is greater demand on facilities and managers. Tourism is an important component of Montana's economy, and it creates a significant demand for outdoor recreation facilities. Moreover, the highest demand activities parallel the facility types with greatest needs as described in Chapter 2 (although swimming was not included in the ITRR nonresident or NSRE studies).

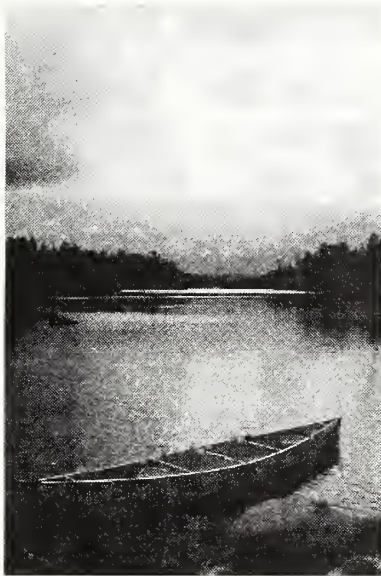
Montana citizens are aging, and wages are low, so accessibility and affordability are important facets of outdoor recreation planning. State and regional tourism efforts are directed at attracting higher value, lower impact nonresident visitors to maximize tourism revenues while minimizing the impact of tourism on Montanans.

Montana resident and nonresident recreationists participate in generally the same outdoor activities, which are walking, hiking, biking, swimming, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting and picnicking. Demand for both motorized and non-motorized recreation access will continue to increase; therefore, facilities will need to be provided to address this demand effectively, while managing Montana's natural and cultural assets sustainably.

National and state data indicate that these trends will continue, with particular emphasis on activities preferred by mature citizens (walking, golf, fishing, bird/wildlife viewing, boating, learning, sightseeing) and youth, as families and extended families seek to reconnect and establish stronger family ties through recreation activities. Hard adventure activities are undertaken by a much smaller segment of the population (whitewater rafting, rock and ice climbing, skydiving, hang gliding, etc.), and therefore it is likely that fewer public resources will be dedicated to providing facilities for them.

This chapter and the previous one compared the demand for outdoor recreation in Montana with the supply of outdoor recreation facilities, along with facility needs. As demand for outdoor recreation increases, the need for enhanced facilities and services increases, raising issues of funding, management, maintenance and prioritization. Montana's struggling economy and percentage of low income residents present challenges that must be addressed strategically.

The supply and demand analysis provided the planning team with information to identify gaps between supply and demand, and key issues related to outdoor recreation management and facilities. The most critical issues are identified in the next chapter, as well as issues related to the Land & Water Conservation Fund program. From the issues, the planning team developed outdoor recreation goals, objectives and actions, which are detailed in Chapter 5.



CHAPTER 4: ISSUES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MONTANA

This chapter outlines the top priority issues related to outdoor recreation in Montana, based on the analysis of recreation facility supply, facility needs, and demand discussed in the previous two chapters, including input from Montana recreation stakeholders. But first, some perspective is provided about the importance of recreation to the State of Montana.

The Link Between Recreation and Public Health

An overarching theme related to the SCORP is the link between recreation and public health. Outdoor recreation is important for the State of Montana because of its impacts on overall quality of life, including physical and mental health. There is a vital—and often overlooked—connection between outdoor recreation on public and private lands, parks and healthy communities. Like other states, Montana is experiencing extraordinary increases in costs for public health care (Medicaid, Medicare) due to an aging population and the increasingly sedentary lifestyles of its residents. Investing in preventative health measures such as community recreation programs, and promoting increased utilization of these programs, may reduce future costs for treatment of illnesses related to sedentary behaviors.

In December 2001 report, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher made the connection between obesity and the need for communities to increase the development of parks and recreation areas. "Overweight and obesity may soon cause as much preventable disease and death as cigarette smoking," according to Satcher. "People tend to think of overweight and obesity as strictly a personal matter, but there is much that communities can and should do to address these problems." Some of his recommendations include requiring physical education in all school grades, providing more healthy food options on school campuses, and providing safe and accessible recreational facilities for residents of all ages.

In an historic first, the Surgeon General recommended that citizens view obesity as a community issue, rather than as a personal one, making the connection between personal health and livable communities through the creation of community parks and recreation areas. Among the strategies Dr. Satcher advocates, several are directly related to outdoor recreation:

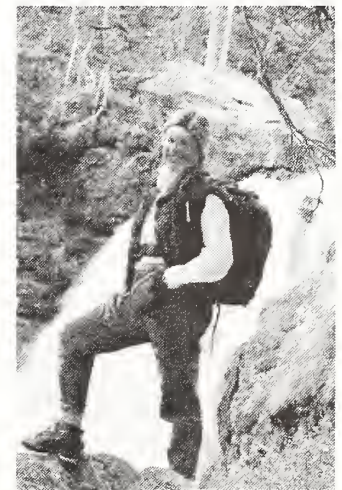
1. Ensure daily, quality physical education for all school grades. Currently, only one state in the country -- Illinois -- requires physical education for grades K-12, while only about one in four teenagers nationwide take part in some form of physical education.
2. Make community facilities available for physical activity for all people, including on the weekends.
3. Create more opportunities for physical activity at work sites.

"Communities can help when it comes to health promotion and disease prevention," Satcher said. "When there are no safe places for children to play, or for adults to walk, jog, or ride a bike, that is a community responsibility. When school lunchrooms or workplace cafeterias don't offer healthy and appealing food choices, that is a

Chapter 4:

Outdoor Recreation Issues in Montana

- ♦ Recreation & Health
- ♦ Gaps between Supply & Demand
- ♦ ADA Compliance
- ♦ Resources to Manage & Maintain Facilities
- ♦ LWCF Grants



"There are escalating health consequences associated with inactivity among older Americans. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), four out of ten Americans age 45-64 are sedentary, increasing to six out of ten for those 75 and older."

Source: AARP, May 8, 2002

community responsibility. When new or expectant parents are not educated about the benefits of breast-feeding, that is a community responsibility. And when we don't require daily physical education in our schools, that is also a community responsibility."

Secretary Tommy Thompson of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recently stated, "Overweight and obesity are among the most pressing new health challenges we face today. Our modern environment has allowed these conditions to increase at alarming rates and become a growing health problem for our nation. By confronting these conditions, we have tremendous opportunities to prevent the unnecessary disease and disability they portend for our future."

Healthy People 2010 is a statement of national health objectives designed to identify the most significant preventable threats to health and to establish national goals to reduce these threats. Physical activity tops the list of leading health indicators. A sedentary lifestyle contributes to serious chronic health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and overweight and obesity. Additional information is available at Healthy People 2010 web site: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/About/>

Hearts 'n Parks is a national, community-based program supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Recreation and Park Association. It is designed to help park and recreation agencies encourage heart-healthy lifestyles in their communities. Additional information is available at the Hearts 'n Parks web site: http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/heart/obesity/hrt_n_pk/; and National Recreation and Park Association web site: www.nrpa.org.

In the early planning stages of 2003-2007 SCORP development, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks formed a partnership with the Cardiovascular Health Program of the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS). Together, the two departments requested inclusion in Montana's annual BRFSS survey. BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) is a program, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that has collected and reported national health-behavior data since 1984. DPHHS assisted Montana State Parks in developing an Outdoor Recreation module consisting of eight questions (see Chapter 3). This module, the first of its kind nationally, was an essential part of the data gathering efforts and greatly assisted in identifying key outdoor recreation issues for the Montana SCORP.

There are ten key issues identified through the BRFSS, online survey of facility managers and other research and public outreach efforts described in Chapters 2 and 3. The ten issues are grouped into four categories and discussed on the following pages:

- 4.1 Gaps Between Supply & Demand
- 4.2 ADA Compliance
- 4.3 Adequate Funding & Other Resources to Manage & Maintain Recreation Facilities
- 4.4 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Programs & Grants



4.1 Gaps Between Supply & Demand

There are six key areas where gaps exist between supply and demand, based on the statewide facility inventory survey of recreation facility managers (Chapter 2: Supply) and the Montana citizen surveys (BRFSS, ITRR and BBER Resident and Nonresident studies, Chapter 3: Demand). Those six issue areas are described below.

ISSUE 1: Inadequate swimming pool facilities to serve local needs.

This need was rated highest of all outdoor recreation facilities among local facility managers, indicating both a need for new construction and for upgrades to existing swimming pools. Swimming facilities also were identified as a top priority need by Montana citizens, as reported in the BRFSS survey results in the previous chapter. Cost of maintenance and management also is an issue for many pool facility managers. See Tables 2.5-2.14 and 2.16 in Chapter 2, and Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.17 in Chapter 3.

ISSUE 2: Insufficient quality and quantity of recreation facilities for youth.

While many of the facilities identified by managers as top priorities are not exclusively used by youth, they are most frequently associated with youth. The types of facilities mentioned most frequently are swimming pools, skate parks (for skate boarders, roller bladers and BMX bikers), play fields (baseball, softball, football, soccer, track), playgrounds and educational and interpretive facilities and programs. In many cases, the facilities are non-existent, or the number of them is insufficient to meet the needs of community recreationists. In other cases, the facilities are in disrepair, are not ADA-compliant or are unsafe (presenting a liability hazard and problems with insurance carriers). Many communities have insufficient resources to maintain or upgrade their facilities. See Tables 2.5-2.14 and 2.16 in Chapter 2, and Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.17 in Chapter 3.

ISSUE 3: Need for continued access to, and maintenance of, rural and backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine, and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.

As was outlined in the previous chapter, demand for both motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation in rural and backcountry areas has grown over the last decade. Most of the state's rural and backcountry trail systems are located on U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands. In many places, motorized and non-motorized recreationists have been able to travel virtually anywhere on those lands that the topography allowed. As use has increased, the impacts on the land and conflicts between users also have increased, creating a need to more closely manage all kinds of recreational use. Both the Forest Service and the BLM currently are developing updated Travel Plans for each national forest and BLM unit. A key challenge for land management agencies relates to the need for good data in order to make good management decisions. Collection of the data, and good management decisions based on the data, require resources of funding and staff. Resolution of conflict requires a willingness from all parties to work proactively together on solutions that will provide for the sustainability of Montana's outstanding natural resources, while offering a variety of recreation opportunities and respecting the recreation choices of all users.



Statewide Trail Miles by Type*

Trail Type	Miles
Walking/Hiking Only	3,645
Bike/Pedestrian	716
Horse/Hiking	16,939
XC Skiing (groomed)	565
OHV (federal only)	4,105
Snowmobile (groomed)	5,594

* Agency estimates of designated system route trails only. Does not include roads or user-created trails.

Source: SCORP Statewide Recreation Facility Manager Survey, October 2002 (see Chapter 2 for full report of results).



What is a "Trail?"

Montana State Trails Plan: Trail will be defined very generally as a path, right-of-way, or other linear corridor used by the public for outdoor recreation (including both motorized and non-motorized modes), or alternative (non-motorized) transportation.

Federal RTP Program: A recreational trail is defined as a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes including, but not limited to, such uses as bicycling, Nordic (cross-country) skiing, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight and long-distance backpacking, roller skating, in-line skating, dog sledding, running, snowmobiling, aquatic or water activity, and vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive, or all-terrain off-road vehicles. The term "thoroughfare or track" excludes roads, generally accessible by low-clearance passenger vehicles, unless those roads are specifically designated for trail use by the managing agencies, but includes high-clearance primitive roads.

Forest Service Manual & Trails Handbook:

- A trail is a pathway for foot, horse or trail vehicles
- Trail vehicles are bikes, snowmobiles, scooters, and all terrain vehicles (ATV)
- An ATV is any motorized, off-highway vehicle 50 inches or less wide
- A "four-wheel-drive-way" is "a Forest Development road included in the Forest Development Transportation Plan and commonly used by four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles with a width greater than 50 inches

In fiscal year 2002, recreational motor vehicle registrations and a portion of state and federal gas taxes provided more than \$2.6 million for the Recreation Trails Program (RTP), the Snowmobile Trails Program and the OHV Trails Program that are administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for trail maintenance, safety and education programs. Some of this funding might be used to collect user data and conduct trail inventories to assist land managers in their decision-making and travel plans. Because of the increasing demand for both motorized and non-motorized recreation, it is critical that public agencies work in partnership with user groups to address these issues strategically for the future enjoyment of all Montanans. See Tables 2.5-2.14 and 2.16 in Chapter 2, and Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14 and 3.17 in Chapter 3.

ISSUE 4: Need for increased miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.

Walking, hiking and bicycling are among the most common outdoor recreation activities of both Montanans and nonresident visitors. Montanans desire more access to urban walking, jogging, biking, and roller blading trails, as well as rural hiking and biking opportunities. See Tables 2.7 - 2.16 in Chapter 2, and Figures 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13-3.17, Figure 3.8 in Chapter 3.7, and Montana State Trails Plan.

ISSUE 5: Insufficient access for water-based recreation.

Fishing and boating are near the top of the list of Montanans' favorite outdoor recreation activities, and also are a significant tourist draw. The number of fishing access sites (FAS), and other public land access to water-based recreation, is inadequate in some areas to handle demand, causing negative impacts in undesignated areas. Moreover, existing fishing access sites need to be upgraded. Boating facilities also are needed to handle increasing demand (boat ramps, launch sites, docks). Paved access to water-based recreation facilities was identified as a need at some facilities for ADA compliance. See Tables 2.7-2.16 in Chapter 2 and Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17 and Figure 3.7 in Chapter 3.

ISSUE 6: Inadequate access for wildlife-based recreation (hunting and wildlife viewing).

During public meetings and other public input processes of the Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan 2003-2007, issues related to hunting and fishing access were a frequently cited concern. Montanans historically have enjoyed access not only to public lands, but also to much of the state's privately owned lands for recreational purposes--especially hunting and fishing. However, in recent years, economic pressures on farmers, ranchers and timber companies have forced closures or sale of private lands for recreational and residential development, resulting in reduced access. At the same time, federal and state budgets and environmental issues have curtailed agencies' abilities to construct and maintain access roads and trails on public lands. The population of Montana, and the number of nonresident visitors, has increased in the past decade, creating more demand on diminishing accessible lands and waters. Loss of access to public and private lands, and limits on methods and modes of access, has created increasing conflicts among user groups in Montana. Several programs are currently in place, and achieving success, to address access issues (see sidebar, next page). Funding for the Montana FWP Block Management program is insufficient to increase the number of private lands maintained for public access, and block management

compensation does not cover landowner costs of allowing public access. See Tables 2.7-2.16 in Chapter 2 and Tables 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17 and Figure 3.7 in Chapter 3.

4.2 ADA Compliance

By its very nature, outdoor recreation presents challenges to ADA compliance. Some sites and facilities are located in terrain that is rugged or remote, or managed to maintain them as “primitive.” Therefore, in some cases, the goal of ADA compliance focuses more on reducing impediments to accessibility, rather than on intensive development or improvements at a site.

ISSUE 7: Need for upgrades to provide more ADA-compliant outdoor recreation facilities.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 12% of Montana residents are classified as having a physical disability. By age group, 1% of residents age 5-15 have a physical disability, 7% of residents age 16-64 have a physical disability, and 27% of people age 65+ have a physical disability. Many facilities in Montana are not ADA compliant, which affects a number of potential users: people with special needs and disabilities, small children (strollers) and older residents and visitors. Montana has the fourth oldest population in the U.S. Moreover, mature travelers make up 80% of all leisure travelers (and spend the most money), so to provide outdoor recreation for them means ensuring accessibility and amenities where possible and practical. See Table 2.15 in Chapter 2 and Table 3.12 in Chapter 3.

4.3 Resources to Manage & Maintain Recreation Facilities

ISSUE 8: Lack of awareness of the SCORP, LWCF program, and other resources available to local entities for outdoor recreation facilities.

In the online survey, recreation facility managers expressed a lack of knowledge about the LWCF program and how it can help them. A SCORP Advisory Committee member commented that the low participation rate in the survey may have been due in part to a lack of awareness about what the SCORP document is, and how the SCORP planning process can support local and tribal recreation facilities. Additionally, there are other resources available for recreation facilities, but many small communities without full-time recreation staff are unaware of those resources or how to access them.

Montana Task Forces Addressing Land & Water Access Issues

Montana Interagency Access Council (MIAC), formed in mid-1990's as informal ad hoc group of state, federal and local land management agencies and groups (e.g. Montana Assn. of Counties) to discuss land and water access issues and work in collaborative fashion. Council meets two to three times per year to identify common and specific problems, and possible solutions. MIAC prints and distributes the *Montana Access Guide to Federal and State Lands*.

River Recreation Advisory Council, formed in summer 2002 “for the purpose of assisting Montana FWP with the development of a statewide framework, policy and rules for managing recreation on Montana’s rivers.” Council consists of representatives from groups interested in river recreation management, and those who will be affected by river recreation management decisions.

Agency Roundtable, formed in 2002 by Montana FWP to convene state and federal agencies that have river recreation management responsibilities. Its purpose is to exchange information on river recreation management responsibility and jurisdiction, strategic planning processes, and rules governing recreation on rivers. Agency Roundtable provides an opportunity to learn more about other agencies’ efforts to address increasing use and social conflict on rivers, and to identify opportunities to coordinate planning efforts and collaborate on projects.

Interagency Recreational Fee Demonstration Program Coordination Task Force, organized to facilitate interagency coordination of the federal Fee Demo Program.

Montana Tourism and Recreation Initiative (MTRI) is a multi-agency cooperative working together to plan and fund mutually beneficial tourism and recreation projects that serve the needs of residents and visitors, both national and international. A common goal is to facilitate excellence in tourism and recreation experiences while protecting and conserving the social, cultural and natural resource values of Montanans. By sharing information and combining time, funding and other resources, MTRI provides a vehicle for coordinated public sector projects.

Facility Manager Comments about LWCF Program

Strengths

- It is wonderful that FWP has programs to help communities and schools in the upkeep and new construction of outdoor recreational items.
- It is an excellent program.
- Very good program.

Concerns

- The main concern is availability of funds to county and city agencies.
- Need much assistance on reservation lands.
- More funds need to be available for maintaining facilities as well as new.
- For small projects, the process is too long and cumbersome.
- It is a good program but the requirements on the needs assessments need to be more flexible.
- The survey instrument may be outdated.

Opportunities

- We certainly do not have many of the facilities aforementioned. It would be nice...to have a picnic/camping area for our families and visitors to enjoy.
- It would be very helpful to have assistance in completing grant applications so that more people can benefit.
- We appreciate the funds we have received for playground equipment. We hope that we can attain funds for our swimming pool.

- Online Survey Participants

ISSUE 9: Insufficient funding, staffing and partnerships at every level (local, tribal, state, federal) to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.

Lack of stable, adequate resources leads to facilities that are not well maintained, are underused and that create user dissatisfaction. This in turn leads to safety and liability issues. A lack of public-private-tribal-nonprofit partnerships contributes to the lack of resources. Additionally, inconsistent regional boundaries used by state and federal agencies may restrict partnerships for funding resources in specific areas.

4.4 Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants

ISSUE 10: Need for additional funding for LWCF grant program, and simplification of the process.

The LWCF program is a tremendous resource for recreation facilities in Montana. However, the level of funding is significantly lower than the level of facility needs. Montana's large geographic area and sparse rural population creates challenges for areas with low tax base to raise funds to meet LWCF matching grant requirements. The U.S. Department of Interior matching requirement for LWCF is more burdensome than many other federal infrastructure grants, which typically require an 80-20 minimum match, and sometimes less for rural impoverished areas. Additionally, smaller communities who most need assistance with outdoor recreation facilities often are those least likely to access LWCF grant funds because they lack funding to meet LWCF matching requirements, or lack the capacity to develop grant applications, conduct community needs surveys, etc. As one survey participant commented, "Public demand for recreation programs, sites and facilities continually increases, while funding levels remain static or decrease." Refinements to the LWCF Program are needed to streamline the application process and lessen the burden on smaller communities, while still meeting national guidelines. Additionally, information and technical assistance are needed for communities to access LWCF grant funds.

The next chapter identifies goals, objectives and actions recommended to address the issues described in this chapter. At the end of Chapter 5 is an Action Table which provides a timeline and identifies organizations and agencies responsible for implementation of each action.

CHAPTER 5: SCORP STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

This chapter contains the key strategic elements of the Montana SCORP document. The first section contains the goals for outdoor recreation in Montana, based on the research and stakeholder input received by the planning team. The second section provides specific objectives and actions for each goal. The third section is an Implementation Action Table, summarizing the goals, objectives and actions, along with timeline and partner responsibilities for implementation.

- 5.1 Goals for Outdoor Recreation
- 5.2 Objectives & Actions
- 5.3 OPSP: The Link Between SCORP & the LWCF Program
- 5.4 Implementation Action Table

5.1 Goals for Outdoor Recreation in Montana

Based on the analysis of top priority issues related to outdoor recreation in Montana, the following ten goals were identified.

1. Increase the quality and/or quantity of local swimming facilities.
2. Enhance local recreation facilities for youth.
3. Continue access to, and maintenance of, rural and backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.
4. Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.
5. Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).
6. Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing).
7. Implement ADA improvements to recreation facilities and sites where needed.
8. Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among local and state recreation facility managers and local communities.
9. Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.
10. Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process in Montana to be as user friendly as possible.

In the next section, objectives and actions have been identified to achieve each goal. Responsible partners to implement each action, and an implementation timeline, are included in section 5.3.

Chapter 5: SCORP Strategy & Action Plan

- ♦ SCORP Goals
- ♦ Objectives & Actions
- ♦ OPSP-LWCF Link
- ♦ Action Table



The Skinny on Skate Parks

- Nationally, skateboarding was voted the #1 recreational activity among teenagers, and it is the 3rd largest activity for participants age 8-18 years
- Skate parks are used by skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers
- The primary user group is boys age 12-16, but skate parks are heavily used by both boys and girls ages 8-18 (at Helena's skate park, users range from age 5 to 60)
- There are 9.5 million skateboarders nationally, 2 million inline skaters and 1 million BMX (trick) bikers
- Skateboarding is a \$3 billion per year industry
- Skateboarding activities are popular because they are unstructured, self-expressive, with no rules, scores, teams, coaches or time clocks, but they promote positive social interaction (older and more skilled skaters often assist and teach younger and less skilled skaters, and share park times)
- Per capita emergency room visits are less for skate parks than for hockey, football, basketball, soccer, baseball and volleyball

Source: Montana Recreation & Parks Assn. 2002 Conference

5.2 Outdoor Recreation Objectives and Actions

For each of the ten goals listed above, several specific objectives were identified, with implementation actions for each objective, based on input from Montanans and from outdoor recreation facility managers, and research conducted by the planning team.

Goal 1: Increase the quantity and quality of local swimming facilities.

This goal addresses Issue 1 from the previous chapter. Many existing community swimming pools were constructed with LWCF grants in the 1960s and 1970s, and now present maintenance problems because the facilities are 30-40 years old. In areas of Montana with high population or tourism growth, more capacity of swimming pools is needed to meet growing demand.

Objective 1.1: Upgrade and maintain existing swimming pools in local communities.

Action 1.1.1: Evaluate the provisions of Montana's park district option tax to determine if changes would facilitate better local funding for pools.

Action 1.1.2: Seek private and nonprofit partners (e.g., concessions, competitions, etc.) for funding of pool facilities.

Action 1.1.3: Investigate ways to lengthen seasons of use for community swimming pools.

Objective 1.2: Construct new swimming pools and water parks in local communities where needed.

Action 1.2.1: Evaluate the feasibility of a loan program to assist communities in financing pools.

Action 1.2.2: Provide ADA compliant facilities for therapeutic recreation.

Action 1.2.3: Create public-private-nonprofit partnerships to fund and manage swimming pools.

Goal 2: Enhance local recreation facilities for youth.

Goal 2 addresses Issue 2 from the previous chapter. Youth need recreation facilities to maintain physical and emotional health, as well as to provide positive activities that enhance communities and public safety.

Objective 2.1: Enhance local playfields (baseball, softball, football, soccer, track).

Action 2.1.1: Provide resources to upgrade and maintain playfields (lighting, surfacing, seating).

Action 2.1.2: Develop partnerships for land acquisition and management of playfields.

Objective 2.2: Increase the number of skate parks in Montana.

Action 2.2.1: Provide information to communities about skate park options, costs, insurance, management, funding and vendors.

Action 2.2.2: Involve youth in planning, fundraising and building skate park facilities.

Action 2.2.3: Consider conversion of seldom-used tennis courts to skate parks.

Action 2.2.4: Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships for funding of skate parks.

Objective 2.3: Improve park and playground facilities for youth.

Action 2.3.1: Improve safety of playgrounds through equipment repair and upgrades.

Action 2.3.2: Provide ADA compliant playground facilities.

Objective 2.4: Provide educational and interpretive activities about wildlife, natural environment & safety.

Action 2.4.1: Present age-appropriate workshops and educational programs for youth.

Action 2.4.2: Develop and distribute educational materials about outdoor recreation.

Action 2.4.3: Sponsor youth safety classes for outdoor recreation.

Action 2.4.4: Partner with schools and youth organizations to sponsor educational programs.

Goal 3: Continue access to, and maintenance of, backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.

Goals 3 and 4 address trail-related issues. The BRFSS and ITRR research, along with the SCORP online survey of facility managers, demonstrated the importance of trail-related recreation activities in Montana (walking, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, jogging, horseback riding, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling and cross-country skiing). The 2001 Montana State Trails Plan (STP) addresses many of the issues identified by Montanans and facility managers during the SCORP process. The 2002 Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan (TRSP) also addressed recreation-related issues. Top priority objectives and actions identified in the SCORP information-gathering process are listed below. The related sections of the STP and TRSP are the following: STP Issues 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10; and TRSP Sections A.4, A.5, A.7, B.1, B.2, B.3, C.2, C.6, C.7.

Objective 3.1: Obtain current data about backcountry motorized and non-motorized trail users.

Action 3.1.1: Contract a study on “OHV Recreation in Montana” (similar to the 2002 “Snowmobiling in Montana” study), to obtain good data about OHV use, economic contributions, demographics of OHV users and high priority OHV use areas and trails. Use OHV program monies to fund the study, and coordinate with OHV user groups to develop the survey questionnaire.

Action 3.1.2: Conduct a repeat of the 1994 Montana Trail Users Study, perhaps as part of the ITRR Recreation Habits of Montanans research, to obtain general data and trends about all types of trail users in Montana. Coordinate with trail user groups to develop the survey questionnaire.

Action 3.1.3: Continue the USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring System in high priority areas of each forest, gathering data about numbers of visitors by user type, season, etc.

Action 3.1.4: Involve trail user groups as partners in survey development and on-the-ground data collection.

Objective 3.2: Inventory and map all system route and user-created trails in high and medium priority use areas.

Action 3.2.1: Provide opportunities for user group volunteers to assist with inventories.

Action 3.2.2: Encourage collaborative processes to designate trail use, respecting needs of all user groups and recognizing increasing demand for both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities.





- Objective 3.3: Continue USFS and BLM travel planning for site-specific areas, with no net loss of agency recognized trail miles for any user group. (STP S-4)
- Action 3.3.1: Based on trail inventories, identify and designate multiple use and non-motorized trails for recreationists to enjoy public lands, while protecting natural resources and minimizing user conflicts, with no net loss of agency recognized trail miles for any user group.
- Action 3.3.2: Continue to develop partnerships to plan, sign, maintain, groom and manage trails.
- Objective 3.4: Address the need to identify and designate motorized and non-motorized trail networks that cross agency and jurisdictional boundaries.
- Action 3.3.1: Work with user groups to identify potential motorized trail networks to designate as discovery routes, loops and byways.
- Action 3.3.2: Work with user groups to identify need for, and/or to enhance, non-motorized trail networks.
- Action 3.3.3: Work with federal, state, county, tribal and nonprofit organizations to map and designate trail networks.
- Action 3.3.4: Link trail networks to rural communities in order to further tourism and economic development in Montana.
- Objective 3.5: Identify and designate vehicular recreation areas (VRAs, such as open play areas or motorized parks) for snowmobile and OHV recreationists.
- Action 3.5.1: Identify and designate areas that will provide motorized use without significant ecological damage or aesthetic impacts on other users.
- Objective 3.6: Address trail system safety and maintenance needs.
- Action 3.6.1: Use RTP, OHV and Snowmobile grant programs administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for trail maintenance projects.
- Action 3.6.2: Expand the Adopt-A-Trail program to encourage volunteer assistance with trail maintenance.
- Action 3.6.3: Continue public education efforts about trail user impacts (On the Right Trail, Tread Lightly, etc.).
- Action 3.6.4: Use the "OHV Recreation in Montana" study results (Action 3.1.1) to evaluate the level of funding appropriated for OHV programs from Montana gas tax.
- Action 3.6.5: Continue to install signs for designated trail routes.
- Action 3.6.6: Evaluate ways to facilitate use of the NEPA and MEPA processes that simplify project development on federal lands.
- Action 3.6.7: Create public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to address trail maintenance.
- Action 3.6.8: Evaluate the level of OHV and snowmobile fees, and the use of non-motorized trail user fees, to generate additional revenue for trails. (TRSP C.7)

Goal 4: Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.

Goal 4 addresses Issue 4 from the previous chapter. As stated in the Montana State Trails Plan regarding trail supply and demand, “During the past ten years, there has been a growing interest in providing more trails in Montana’s urban areas...An ideal situation is a well-developed urban trail system, with good connecting links to more primitive trail systems on surrounding federal lands.”

Objective 4.1: Link parks and recreation/trails facility needs assessment to city and county comprehensive or growth plan development.

Action 4.1.1: Work with the Montana League of Cities & Towns (MLCT) and Montana Association of Counties (MACo) to help local planners incorporate parks and recreation needs assessments and plans into their comprehensive and growth plans.

Objective 4.2: Increase the miles of urban and rural bicycle and pedestrian trails. (STP Issues 2,4,9,12,13)

Action 4.2.1: Develop more paved trails for bicycling, roller-blading, scooters and wheelchairs.

Action 4.2.2: Develop more unpaved walking, biking and urban nature viewing trails.

Action 4.2.3: Improve safety on urban trails (lighting, landscaping, surface maintenance).

Objective 4.3: Increase access to, and miles of, rural walking, hiking, and equestrian trails. (STP Issues 1,3,4,6,7,10,11)

Action 4.3.1: Acquire access for trail expansion (land or easement acquisition, rails-to-trails, etc.).

Action 4.3.2: Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships to construct and maintain trails.

Objective 4.4: Advocate for implementation of Montana State Trails Plan strategies and actions. (STP Issue 10)

Action 4.4.1: Assist with public education about strategies contained in the Trails Plan.

Action 4.4.2: Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to implement the Trails Plan.

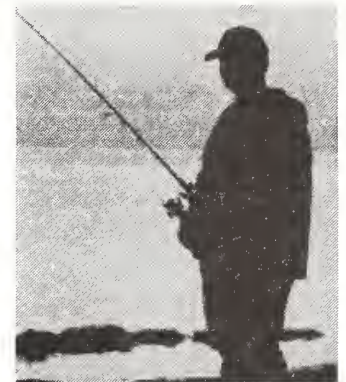
Goal 5: Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).

Goal 5 addresses Issue 5 from the previous chapter. Fishing and boating are important activities for Montana residents and nonresident visitors alike. As use has increased, demand for access to additional sites and facilities also has increased. The Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan 2003-2007, Objective B.1, addresses actions to balance the needs of natural asset protection with the needs of resident and nonresident users. In that context, the following objectives and actions address increased demand for fishing and boating facilities.

Objective 5.1: Increase access to fishing sites in Montana.

Action 5.1.1: Implement the Fishing Access element of the FWP “Fisheries Beyond 2000” Plan.

Action 5.1.2: Partner with private and nonprofit landowners and organizations to combine resources for fishing access acquisition.



Objective 5.2: Enhance boating facilities in Montana (ramps, launch sites, docks).

Action 5.2.1: Partner with private and nonprofit entities (concessions, tribes, landowners) to provide additional public access for boaters.

Action 5.2.2: Implement upgrades to existing boating facilities (size, quality, surfacing, etc.).

Action 5.2.3: Continue to increase communication and cooperation between state, federal, tribal and local agencies to address boating facility issues.

Objective 5.3: Encourage ADA improvements for water-based recreation activities.

Action 5.3.1: Enhance ADA access to boating facilities (parking, pathways).

Action 5.3.2: Provide ADA-compliant restrooms at water-based recreation facilities.

Goal 6: Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing).

This goal addresses Issue 6 from the previous chapter. Access issues are an important component of outdoor recreation in Montana. Objective B.2 of the Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan 2003-2007, and Issues 1, 3 and 4 of the Montana State Trails Plan, contain strategies and actions to address access issues.

Objective 6.1: Increase enrollment in the block management program, and evaluate increased payments to landowners as an incentive to enroll lands in the program.

Action 6.1.1: Identify priority land areas needed for hunting and fishing access, determine ownership.

Action 6.1.2: Seek landowner cooperation to enroll lands in the block management program.

Action 6.1.3: Seek funding to increase payments to landowners for costs associated with public access (fencing repair, site restoration, game habitat, etc.).

Objective 6.2: Expand access for wildlife-based recreation on public and private lands.

Action 6.2.1: Support existing efforts of access management task forces to acquire access.

Action 6.2.2: Maintain wilderness and backcountry trails for use by sportsmen on foot and horses.

Objective 6.3: Enhance Montana wetlands for wildlife-based recreation.

Action 6.3.1: Improve the condition of existing wetlands to support fish and wildlife.

Action 6.3.2: Identify additional wetlands areas for fish and wildlife habitat development.

Objective 6.4: Enhance interpretation and education about wildlife assets in Montana.

Action 6.4.1: Continue to provide interpretive signs and materials at key wildlife viewing areas.

Action 6.4.2: Install signs to indicate sportsmen's areas, access points and use limitations.

Action 6.4.3: Evaluate fish and wildlife regulations for clarity and user-friendliness.



Goal 7: Implement ADA improvements to recreation facilities and sites.

Goal 7 addresses Issue 7 from the previous chapter. More than 71,500 Montana residents have a physical disability (2000 U.S. Census), and as the population continues to age, the number will continue to grow annually. ADA compliance at outdoor recreation facilities is critical to these individuals' ability to access them.

Objective 7.1: Increase the number of recreation facilities that are ADA compliant, focusing primarily on settings in or near urban areas.

Action 7.1.1: Improve surfacing (e.g., paving) on parking areas, RV pads, pathways and trails.

Action 7.1.2: Upgrade restrooms to be ADA compliant (doorways, commodes, sinks, lighting).

Action 7.1.3: Where possible, remove impediments to accessibility at primitive and remote sites.

Action 7.1.4: Offer accessible hunting opportunities (e.g., duck blinds) for handicapped sportsmen.

Action 7.1.5: Provide ADA compliant park benches and picnic tables.



Goal 8: Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among local, tribal, and state recreation facility managers and local communities.

This goal addresses Issue 8 from the previous chapter. Implementation of the SCORP actions depends on a broad awareness and endorsement of the plan. Communication with stakeholders is critical to building support for outdoor recreation programs and facilities.

Objective 8.1: Adopt the SCORP as Montana's official outdoor recreation strategy.

Action 8.1.1: Present SCORP to SCORP Advisory Committee for adoption.

Action 8.1.2: Present SCORP to FWP Department and its advisory committees (STAC, OHV, RTP, Snowmobile) for adoption.

Action 8.1.3: Present SCORP to Governor for official endorsement.

Action 8.1.4: Send final SCORP to the National Park Service.

Objective 8.2: Build awareness among local facility managers and stakeholders about the SCORP document.

Action 8.2.1: Notify stakeholders and media of SCORP completion and adoption.

Action 8.2.2: Print and distribute copies of SCORP to local facility managers and other stakeholders.

Action 8.2.3: Encourage stakeholder groups to officially adopt and endorse SCORP.

Objective 8.3: Provide information to stakeholders about the LWCF program, its role in the SCORP and in state, local, and tribal outdoor recreation planning and facility development.

Action 8.3.1: Include LWCF information packets with copies of the SCORP sent to stakeholders.

Action 8.3.2: Sponsor SCORP and LWCF information workshops in each region, and at annual meetings of the Montana Recreation & Parks Assn. (MRPA), the Montana League of Cities & Towns (MLCT), and the Montana Association of Counties (MACo). Provide information not only about LWCF, but also other resources available for outdoor recreation facilities and programs.



Action 8.3.3: Assign a FWP intern to compile an annual report summarizing all LWCF state and locally sponsored projects, and distribute to stakeholders.

Objective 8.4: Complete the outdoor recreation facility inventory of public and private facilities.

Action 8.4.1: In 2003-2004, conduct extended online survey of recreation facility managers to complete statewide outdoor recreation facility inventory. Add motorized parks and play areas to inventory list.

Action 8.4.2: Work with the University of Montana to include the 2002 outdoor recreation facility inventory in the Montana Tourism & Recreation Data Center online database.

Action 8.4.3: Notify public facility managers of the database, and request that they review and update it (via online password-protected access).

Action 8.4.4: Work with the Montana Department of Commerce and business trade associations to develop an inventory for privately owned facilities (through Travel Montana, Chambers of Commerce, Montana Ski Areas Association, Montana Golf Association, etc.), and include it in the Montana Tourism & Recreation Data Center online database.

Objective 8.5: Expand the planning team and process for development of the 2008-2012 SCORP document.

Action 8.5.1: Begin the next SCORP planning process in early 2005, and work with the Montana Department of Commerce and the Montana Tourism & Recreation Initiative (MTRI) inter-agency planning group to coordinate the SCORP with the 2008-2012 Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan.

Action 8.5.2: Provide additional resources for a statewide inventory of public and private outdoor recreation facilities, and for consumer demand research.

Action 8.5.3: Provide more opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the SCORP planning process.

Goal 9: Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.

This goal addresses Issue 9 from the previous chapter. Funding for outdoor recreation facilities at state and local levels has been stagnant or declining. Strategic partnerships and increased or additional revenue sources are necessary to provide adequate funding for facility management and maintenance (see Appendix D). Recreation revenues from nonresident visitors can play a key role in funding (see Montana Tourism & Recreation Plan 2003-2007 Objectives C.2, C.4, C.6 and C.7).

Objective 9.1: Identify additional or enhanced funding mechanisms to support outdoor recreation facilities.

Action 9.1.1: Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to enhance recreation funding and facility management.

Action 9.1.2: Evaluate implementation and enhancement of user fees and fee demo programs to support recreation facility management and maintenance.

Action 9.1.3: Evaluate ways to increase revenues from nonresident visitors, especially at popular recreation sites and facilities in peak season, while maintaining affordability for residents.



- Action 9.1.4: Seek opportunities for private sector concessions to increase revenues for recreation facilities (food & beverage, retail, guided services, instruction, etc.).
- Action 9.1.5: Encourage projects that have linkages to the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration; in order to benefit from Bicentennial partnerships and funding opportunities.
- Action 9.1.6: Encourage the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Congress to collaborate and institute a special category of LWCF matching fund requirement (i.e., 75% federal/25% local match) for economically challenged & sparsely populated areas.

Objective 9.2: Enhance staffing to manage outdoor recreation facilities.

- Action 9.2.1: Identify partnerships to increase staffing levels.
- Action 9.2.2: Use volunteer and tourist resources to enhance facility staffing.

Objective 9.3: Address safety issues related to outdoor recreation facilities.

- Action 9.3.1: Provide information regarding insurance options to recreation facility managers.
- Action 9.3.2: Evaluate Montana laws regarding liability caps for public recreation facilities, and support changes if needed.
- Action 9.3.3: Provide information to recreation facility managers about ways to deal with vandalism.

Goal 10: Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process in Montana to be as user friendly as possible.

Goal 10 addresses Issue 10 from the previous chapter. Recreation facility managers expressed a desire for a simplified LWCF grant application and community needs assessment process. While some requirements must be maintained to meet federal guidelines, some adjustments are possible to facilitate greater participation in the program among Montana's communities (see Chapter 6, and section 1.3 of Chapter 1 for LWCF information).

Objective 10.1: Refine the Montana LWCF local grant application forms.

- Action 10.1.1: Seek input from previous LWCF grant applicants and recipients about the grant application process.
- Action 10.1.2: Consolidate duplicative questions, eliminate unnecessary questions, clarify LWCF grant and match budget table.

Objective 10.2: Simplify the needs assessment and public input process for LWCF grant applications.

- Action 10.2.1: Seek input about improvements and simplification of the community input and survey process from LWCF grant applicants, recent LWCF Selection Committee members, recent LWCF grant recipients, and the University of Montana.
- Action 10.2.2: Develop and list alternatives to the current local needs survey instrument that will be allowable in determining local facility needs. These alternatives might make use of information such as county-level 2002 BRFSS survey results, state and national average number of facilities per capita, and local comprehensive or growth plans that identify parks and recreation needs.





Action 10.2.3: Expand the methods that can be used by communities to demonstrate need for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objective 10.3: Enhance the technical assistance provided by Montana State Parks to local grant applicants.

Action 10.3.1: Provide sample grant applications on the State Parks web site.

Action 10.3.2: Provide a toll-free telephone number and staff person for applicants to call for assistance.

Action 10.3.3: Conduct regional LWCF grant writing and administration workshops, to answer questions and assist potential and new applicants and recipients.

Action 10.3.4: Notify all outdoor recreation stakeholders and eligible grant applicant organizations about the enhanced technical assistance program.

Objective 10.4: Refine the OPSP and grant-application scoring process for LWCF grants.

Action 10.4.1: Emphasize projects that are consistent with the goals in the SCORP document. Evaluate the maximum grant award amounts based on top priority project types (e.g. pools).

Action 10.4.2: Emphasize regional priorities as identified by facility inventory, needs assessment, BRFSS and socio-economic differences. Refine emphasis in grant application scoring to consider county and/or regional needs as allowable in lieu of local assessment if county and regional needs are consistent with local project needs.

Action 10.4.3: Repeat the outdoor recreation survey module on the Montana BRFSS with refined questions every 3-5 years to obtain updated information and trends at the county, regional and state levels. The survey must be conducted far enough in advance so as to yield data in time for the SCORP revision process.

Action 10.4.4: Review and refine the outdoor recreation survey module on the Montana BRFSS as needed before submitting to DPHS as a state-added module candidate.

5.3 OPSP: The Link Between SCORP and the LWCF Program

The priorities for the LWCF program are established based on the findings and strategies identified in this SCORP document, and that prioritization is implemented through the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP).

According to Chapter 660.4 of the LWCF Grants Manual, each state must develop a priority rating system for selecting projects that ensures the fair and equitable evaluation of all LWCF applications. This system is known as the Open Project Selection Process.

There are actually two different selection processes. The first is used for projects submitted by political subdivisions of the State of Montana (cities, counties, park districts, school districts) and Sovereign Indian Nations, which is titled the Locally Sponsored Open Project Selection Process. The second is used for state sponsored projects from FWP and other state agencies, which is titled the State Sponsored Project Selection Process. Both processes are contained within the OPSP.

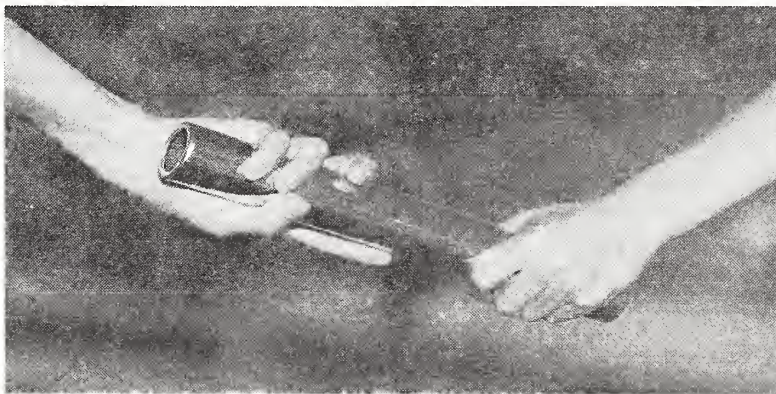
To remain current, the Open Project Selection Process may be modified slightly each year to meet the changing demands of the program. Each change in the OPSP must be reviewed and approved by the National Park Service.

The current Open Project Selection Process is not included in this document, but is posted on the FWP web site <http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/landw/2003/default.asp>. Questions and comments should be directed to:

Land & Water Conservation Fund
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3750

5.4 Implementation Action Table

Many objectives and strategic actions have been detailed in this chapter. It will take the concerted efforts of numerous private and public entities to implement these objectives and actions. Please note that not all actions are of equal priority. The Implementation Action Table on the next four pages lists all 36 objectives and 110 actions, and assigns a priority to each action (priority 1, 2 or 3), with approximate implementation dates (2003-2007) and partners. Actions listed as priority 1 should begin as soon as possible. Priority 2 actions should receive less emphasis, or begin later, and priority 3 actions have lower emphasis still. Some actions are ongoing from current or previous efforts, and are assigned a priority based on the planning team and SCORP Advisory Committee recommendations of relative importance to address the issues detailed in Chapter 4. The recommended timeline has been identified by shaded boxes under each of the five years. The darker shading indicates a more intense level of activity during that year for a particular action.



SCORP Implementation Action

Objective		Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)
Action	03		04	05	06	07		
Goal 1: Increase the quantity and quality of local swimming facilities.								
1.1:	Upgrade and maintain existing swimming pools in local communities.							
1.1.1	Evaluate provisions of Montana's park district option tax to determine if changes would facilitate better local funding for pools.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, Leg
1.1.2	Seek private and nonprofit partners (e.g., concessions, competitions, etc.) for funding of pool facilities.	2						City, Sch, Biz, NP
1.1.3	Investigate ways to lengthen seasons of use for community swimming pools.	1						MRPA, FWP, City, Biz
1.2:	Construct new swimming pools and water parks in communities where needed.							
1.2.1	Evaluate the feasibility of a loan program to assist communities in financing pools.	1						MRPA, MLCT
1.2.2	Provide ADA compliant facilities for therapeutic recreation.	2						City, Trb, Biz, Np
1.2.3	Create public-private-nonprofit partnerships to fund and manage swimming pools.	2						City, Trb, Biz, Np
Goal 2: Enhance local recreation facilities for youth.								
2.1:	Enhance local playfields (baseball, softball, football, soccer, track).							
2.1.1	Provide resources to upgrade and maintain playfields (lighting, surfacing, seating).	1						FWP, Sch, City, Biz
2.1.2	Develop partnerships for land acquisition and management of playfields.	2						Sch, City, Biz, Co, NP
2.2:	Increase the number of skate parks in Montana.							
2.2.1	Provide information to communities about skate park options, costs, insurance, management, funding and vendors.	1						MRPA, MLCT, Biz
2.2.2	Involve youth in planning, fundraising and building skate park facilities.	1						City, PD, Sch, Vol
2.2.3	Consider conversion of seldom-used tennis courts to skate parks.	2						City, PD, Sch
2.2.4	Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships for funding of skate parks.	1						City, PD, Sch, Biz, Vol, NP
2.3:	Improve park and playground facilities for youth.							
2.3.1	Improve safety of playgrounds through equipment repair and upgrades.	1						Sch, City, Biz, NP
2.3.2	Provide ADA compliant playground facilities.	2						Sch, City, Co, Trb, Biz
2.4:	Provide educational and interpretive activities about wildlife, natural environment & safety.							
2.4.1	Present age-appropriate workshops and educational programs for youth.	2						FA, SA, Sch, Biz, Vol
2.4.2	Develop and distribute educational materials about outdoor recreation.	3						FA, SA, Sch, Biz
2.4.3	Sponsor youth safety classes for outdoor recreation.	2						FA, SA, Sch, Biz, Vol
2.4.4	Partner with schools and youth organizations to sponsor educational programs.	2						FA, SA, Sch, Biz, Vol
Goal 3: Continue access to, and maintenance of, backcountry trails/use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized recreation.								
3.1:	Obtain current data about backcountry motorized and non-motorized trail users.							
3.1.1	Contract BBER to do a study on "OHV Recreation in Montana".	1						FWP, OHV, BBER, NP
3.1.2	Conduct a repeat of the 1994 Montana Trail Users Study.	2						FWP, STAC, ITRR
3.1.3	Continue the USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring System in high priority areas of each forest.	1						USFS, Vol
3.1.4	Involve trail user groups as partners in survey development and on-the-ground data collection.	1						FWP, FA, Trb, NP, Vol
3.2:	Inventory and map all system route trails in high and medium priority use areas.							
3.2.1	Provide opportunities for user group volunteers to assist with inventories.	1						FA, NP, Vol
3.2.2	Encourage collaborative processes to designate trail use, respecting needs of all user groups, & recognizing increasing demand.	1						FA, SA, Co, NP, Trb
3.3:	Continue USFS and BLM travel planning, with no net loss of agency recognized trail miles for any user group.							
3.3.1	Identify/designate multiple use & non-motorized trails/areas, while protecting natural resources/minimizing user conflicts.	1						FA, NP, STAC
3.3.2	Continue to develop partnerships to plan, sign, maintain, groom and manage trails.	2						FA, NP, Vol, Trb, Biz
3.4:	Address the need to identify and designate motorized and non-motorized trail networks that cross jurisdictional boundaries.							
3.4.1	Work with user groups to identify potential motorized trail networks to designate as discovery routes, loops and byways.	1						FWP, FA, Co, NP, Trb
3.4.2	Work with user groups to identify need for, and/or to enhance, non-motorized trail networks.	2						FWP, FA, Co, NP, Trb
3.4.3	Work with federal, state, county, tribal and nonprofit organizations to map and designate trail networks.	2						FWP, FA, Co, NP, Trb
3.4.4	Link trail networks to rural communities in order to further tourism and economic development in Montana.	2						FWP, DOC, MEDA, FA, NP, Trb
3.5:	Identify & designate vehicular recreation areas (play areas/motorized parks) for snowmobile & OHV recreationists.							
3.5.1	Identify/designate areas that will provide motorized use without significant ecological damage/aesthetic impacts on other users.	2						FA, NP, FWP

SCORP Implementation Action Table							
Objective Action	Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)
		03	04	05	06	07	
3.6: Address trail system safety and maintenance needs.							
3.6.1 Use RTP, OHV and Snowmobile grant programs administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for trail maintenance projects.	1						FWP, NP, FA
3.6.2 Expand the Adopt-A-Trail program to encourage volunteer assistance with trail maintenance.	2						FA, FWP, NP, Vol
3.6.3 Continue public education efforts about trail user impacts (On the Right Trail, Tread Lightly, etc.).	1						FWP, FA, NP
3.6.4 Use the "OHV Recreation in Montana" study results to evaluate level of funding appropriated for OHV programs from gas tax.	2						FWP, NP, FA, Vol, BBER
3.6.5 Continue to install signs for designated trail routes.	2						SA, FA, NP, Vol
3.6.6 Evaluate ways to facilitate use of the NEPA and MEPA processes that simplify project development on federal lands.	2						FWP, FA, NP, Trb
3.6.7 Create public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to address trail maintenance.	2						SA, FA, Trb, NP, Vol, Biz
3.6.8 Evaluate the level of OHV/snowmobile fees, & use of non-motorized trail user fees, to generate additional revenue for trails	3						FWP, FA, NP, Leg
Goal 4: Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.							
4.1: Link parks and recreation/trails facility needs assessment to city and county comprehensive or growth plan development.							
4.1.1 Work w/ MLCT/MACo to help local planners include parks/rec'n needs assessments/plans into comprehensive/growth plans.	1						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, FWP, PD
4.2: Increase the miles of urban and rural bicycle and pedestrian trails.							
4.2.1 Develop more paved trails for bicycling, roller-blading, scooters and wheelchairs.	2						City, Co, Trb, Biz, SA, FA
4.2.2 Develop more unpaved walking, biking and urban nature viewing trails.	3						City, Co, Trb, Biz, SA, FA
4.2.3 Improve safety on urban trails (lighting, landscaping, surface maintenance).	2						City, Co, Trb, Biz
4.3: Increase access to, and miles of, rural walking, hiking, and equestrian trails.							
4.3.1 Acquire access for trail expansion (land or easement acquisition, rails-to-trails, etc.).	2						SA, FA, Co, NP, Trb
4.3.2 Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships to construct and maintain trails.	2						SA, FA, Co, NP, Trb, Biz, USFS
4.4: Advocate for implementation of Montana State Trails Plan strategies and actions.							
4.4.1 Assist with public education about strategies contained in the Trails Plan.	2						SA, FA, NP, Trb
4.4.2 Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to implement the Trails Plan	2						SA, FA, NP, Trb, Biz
Goal 5: Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).							
5.1: Increase access to fishing sites in Montana.							
5.1.1 Implement the Fishing Access element of the FWP "Fisheries Beyond 2000" Plan.	2						FWP, FA, LO, NP
5.1.2 Partner with private and nonprofit landowners and organizations to combine resources for fishing access acquisition.	2						FWP, FA, LO, NP
5.2: Enhance boating facilities in Montana (ramps, launch sites, docks).							
5.2.1 Partner with private and nonprofit entities (concessions, tribes, landowners) to provide additional public access for boaters.	2						FWP, USFS, FA, LO Trb, NP, Co, Biz
5.2.2 Implement upgrades to existing boating facilities (size, quality, surfacing, etc.).	1						FWP, USFS, FA, SA, Biz, Co
5.2.3 Continue to increase communication/cooperation between state/federal/tribal/local agencies to address boating facility issues.	1						SA, FA, Trb, LO, NP
5.3: Encourage ADA improvements for water-based recreation activities.							
5.3.1 Enhance ADA access to boating facilities (parking, pathways).	2						USFS, SA, FA, Biz, Co
5.3.2 Provide ADA-compliant restrooms at water-based recreation facilities	2						USFS, SA, FA, Biz, Co
Goal 6: Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing)							
6.1: Increase enrollment in the block management program; evaluate increased payments to landowners.							
6.1.1 Identify priority land areas needed for hunting and fishing access, determine ownership.	1						FWP, LO, FA
6.1.2 Seek landowner cooperation to enroll lands in the block management program.	1						FWP, LO
6.1.3 Seek funding to increase payments to landowners for costs associated with public access.	2						FWP, LO, Leg
6.2: Expand access for wildlife-based recreation on public and private lands.							
6.2.1 Support existing efforts of access management task forces to acquire access.	1						SA, FA, Trb, NP, Co, LO
6.2.2 Maintain wilderness and backcountry trails for use by sportsmen on foot and horses	2						USFS, FA, NP, Co, Vol
6.3: Enhance Montana wetlands for wildlife based recreation.							
6.3.1 Improve the condition of existing wetlands to support fish & wildlife.	2						FWP, DNRC, FWS, MWC, NP
6.3.2 Identify additional wetlands areas for fish & wildlife habitat development.	3						MWC, LO, DNRC, FWS
6.4: Enhance Interpretation and education about wildlife assets in Montana							
6.4.1 Continue to provide interpretive signs and materials at key wildlife viewing areas.	3						FWP, FWS, NP
6.4.2 Install signs to indicate sportsmen's areas, access points and use limitations.	2						FWP, MDT, LO, FA
6.4.3 Evaluate fish and wildlife regulations for clarity and user-friendliness.	3						FWP, NP, LO

SCORP Implementation Action Table

Objective Action	Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)
		03	04	05	06	07	
Goal 7: Implement ADA Improvements to recreation facilities and sites where needed							
7.1: Increase the number of recreation facilities that are ADA compliant, focusing primarily on settings in or near urban areas							
7.1.1 Improve surfacing (e.g., paving) on parking areas, RV pads, pathways and trails.	2						SA, FA, Biz, City, Co, USFS
7.1.2 Upgrade restrooms to be ADA compliant (doorways, commodes, sinks, lighting).	2						SA, FA, Biz, City, Co, USFS
7.1.3 Where possible, remove impediments to accessibility at primitive and remote sites.	3						SA, FA, Co, USFS
7.1.4 Offer accessible hunting opportunities (e.g., duck blinds) for handicapped sportsmen.	3						SA, FA, USFS
7.1.5 Provide ADA compliant park benches and picnic tables.	2						SA, FA, City, Co, Biz, PD, USFS
Goal 8: Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among recreation facility managers.							
8.1: Adopt the SCORP as Montana's official outdoor recreation strategy.							
8.1.1 Present SCORP to SCORP Advisory Committee for adoption.	1						FWP
8.1.2 Present SCORP to FWP Department and its advisory committees (STAC, OHV, RTP, Snowmo) for adoption.	1						FWP
8.1.3 Present SCORP to Governor for official endorsement.	1						FWP, GO
8.1.4 Send final SCORP to the National Park Service.	1						FWP, NPS
8.2: Build awareness among local facility managers and stakeholders about the SCORP document.							
8.2.1 Notify stakeholders and media of SCORP completion and adoption.	1						FWP
8.2.2 Print and distribute copies of SCORP to local facility managers and other stakeholders.	1						FWP
8.2.3 Encourage stakeholder groups to officially adopt and endorse SCORP.	1						FWP
8.3: Provide information to stakeholders about the LWCF program, its role in the SCORP							
8.3.1 Include LWCF information packets with copies of the SCORP sent to stakeholders.	1						FWP
8.3.2 Sponsor SCORP & LWCF information workshops in each region, and at annual meetings of MRPA, MLCT, & MACo	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo
8.3.3 Assign a FWP intern to compile an annual report summarizing all LWCF state & locally sponsored projects & distribute	1						FWP
8.4: Complete the outdoor recreation facility inventory of public and private facilities.							
8.4.1 In 2003-2004, conduct extended online survey of recreation facility managers to complete statewide recreation facility inventory.	1						FWP, Con, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb
8.4.2 Work with UM to include outdoor recreation facility inventory in MT Tourism & Recreation Data Center online database.	2						FWP, ITRR
8.4.3 Notify public facility managers of database, & request that they review and update it (via online password-protected access).	2						FWP, SA, FA
8.4.4 Work w/ MT DOC & business trade associations to inventory privately owned facilities & include in online database.	2						FWP, DOC, MTC
8.5: Expand the planning team and process for development of the 2008-2012 SCORP document.							
8.5.1 Work w/ MT DOC & MTRI to coordinate SCORP with 2008-2012 Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan.	1						FWP, DOC, MTRI
8.5.2 Provide add'l resources for statewide inventory of public/private outdoor recreation facilities, & consumer demand research.	2						FWP
8.5.3 Provide more opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the SCORP planning process	1						FWP, SA, FA, Trb, MRPA
Goal 9: Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.1: Identify additional or enhanced funding mechanisms to support outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.1.1 Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to enhance recreation funding and facility management.	1						SA, FA, Trb, NP, Biz, USFS
9.1.2 Evaluate implementation/enhancement of user fees/fee demo programs to support recreation facility management/maintenance.	2						SA, FA, Leg, NP
9.1.3 Evaluate ways to increase revenues from nonresident visitors, especially at popular recreation sites & facilities in peak season.	2						SA, FA, DOC, MTC, Biz
9.1.4 Seek opportunities for private sector concessions to increase revenues for recreation facilities.	2						SA, FA, DOC, Biz, USFS
9.1.5 Encourage projects w/ linkages to Lewis & Clark Bicentennial to benefit from partnerships/funding opportunities.	3						FWP, L&C, FA, USFS
9.1.6 Encourage U.S. DOI/Congress to lower LWCF matching fund requirem't for economically challenged/sparsely populated areas.	2						FWP, NPS, MRPA, MLCT, MACo
9.2: Enhance staffing to manage outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.2.1 Identify partnerships to increase staffing levels.	2						SA, FA, NP, Trb, Biz, Vol
9.2.2 Use volunteer and tourist resources to enhance facility staffing	2						SA, FA, NP, Vol
9.3: Address safety issues related to outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.3.1 Provide information regarding insurance options to recreation facility managers.	1						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, MTC, Sch, Biz
9.3.2 Evaluate Montana laws regarding liability caps for public recreation facilities, and support changes if needed.	2						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Leg, Sch, Biz
9.3.3 Provide information to recreation facility managers about ways to deal with vandalism.	2						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Sch, Co

SCORP Implementation Action Table

Objective Action	Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)
		03	04	05	06	07	
Goal 10: Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process							
10.1: Refine the Montana LWCF local grant application forms.							
10.1.1 Seek input from previous LWCF grant applicants and recipients about the grant application process.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb, Sch
10.1.2 Consolidate duplicative questions, eliminate unnecessary questions, clarify LWCF grant and match budget table.	1						FWP, MRPA, Sch
10.2: Simplify the needs assessment and public input process for LWCF grant applications.							
10.2.1 Seek input about improvements and simplification of the community input process.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb, Sch
10.2.2 Develop & list alternatives to local needs survey that will be allowable in determining local facility needs.	1						FWP, MRPA, Sch
10.2.3 Expand methods that can be used by communities to demonstrate need for outdoor recreation opportunities.	1						FWP, MRPA, Sch
10.3: Enhance the technical assistance provided by Montana State Parks to local grant applicants.							
10.3.1 Provide sample grant applications on the State Parks web site.	2						FWP
10.3.2 Provide a toll-free telephone number for applicants to call for assistance.	3						FWP
10.3.3 Conduct regional LWCF grant writing and administration workshops.	1						FWP
10.3.4 Notify all outdoor recreation stakeholders & eligible grant applicant organizations about the technical assistance program.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb, Sch
10.4: Refine the OPSP and grant-application scoring process for LWCF grants.							
10.4.1 Emphasize projects consistent w/ goals in SCORP document. Evaluate grant award amounts based on top priority project types	1						FWP
10.4.2 Emphasize identified regional priorities & refine scoring to consider county/regional needs in lieu of local assessment.	1						FWP
10.4.3 Repeat MT BRFSS outdoor recreation survey module every 3-5 years; obtain updated information/trends.	2						FWP, DPHHS
10.4.4 Review/refine the outdoor recreation survey module on the Montana BRFSS as needed.	2						FWP, DPHHS, CDC

Action Table Key to Codes

BBER	Bureau of Business/Economic Developmt	MEDA	Montana Economic Developers Association
Biz	Private Sector Business	L&C	Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. Commission
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	MLCT	Montana League of Cities & Towns
CDC	Center for Disease Control	MRPA	Montana Recreation & Parks Association
City	City/Communities	MTC	Montana Tourism Coalition
Co	County	MTRI	Montana Tourism & Recreation Initiative
Con	Contracted Service	MWC	Montana Wetlands Council
DNRC	MT Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation	NP	Non-profit organizations
DOC	Montana Dept. of Commerce	NPS	National Park Service
DPHHS	MT Dept. of Public Health & Human Services	OHV	State OHV Advisory Committee
FA	Federal Agency	PD	Park District
FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	RTP	State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee
FWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	SA	Montana State/Agency/Dept
GO	Montana Governor's Office	Sch	Schools/School Districts
ITRR	UM Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research	Snomo	State Snowmobile Advisory Committee
Leg	Montana Legislature	STAC	State Trails Advisory Committee
LO	Land Owner	Trb	American Indian Tribes
MACo	Montana Association of Counties	USFS	Forest Service
MDT	Montana Dept of Transportation	Vol	Volunteers



APPENDICES

- A. Online Survey Instrument: Outdoor Recreation Facility Manager Survey
- B. Online Survey Participants
- C. Wetlands in Montana
- D. Resources for Implementation: Funding & Technical Assistance

Appendices:

- ♦ Online Survey Instrument
- ♦ Online Survey Participants
- ♦ Wetlands in Montana
- ♦ Resources for Implementation



SCORP ONLINE SURVEY OF RECREATION FACILITY MANAGERS

Appendix A:
Outdoor Recreation
Facility Manager
Online Survey
Instrument

In order to understand outdoor recreation needs in Montana, it was necessary to begin with an examination of existing conditions – an inventory and assessment of existing outdoor recreation facilities, sites and services – and then to compare those facilities with outdoor recreation demand. A statewide online survey of recreation facility managers was conducted in October 2002 to obtain an inventory of public recreation facilities.

=====

Thank you for your participation in this outdoor recreation facility survey! The information you provide will help determine statewide and regional priorities for Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant funding for the next five years. Your responses will remain completely confidential, and will be reported only in aggregate with all survey respondent data.

Please enter your email address →

(Participant e-mail addresses will NOT be used again for any kind of solicitations.)

Definition: "Outdoor recreation facilities" include developed and undeveloped areas or sites dedicated to outdoor recreation.

Data must be analyzed by county, so if your organization's facilities are located in more than one county, please complete a separate survey for each county in your organization's jurisdiction.

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

1. Which type of organization do you represent?

- ☐ 1. City
- ☐ 2. County
- ☐ 3. School District
- ☐ 4. Tribe
- ☐ 5. State Agency
- ☐ 6. Federal Agency
- ☐ 7. Local Park District
- ☐ 8. College/University
- ☐ 9. Nonprofit
- ☐ 10. Other: _____

2. a. Organization Name: _____

b. City: _____

3. County where recreation facilities are located: _____

SECTION 2: RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

4. Please indicate the quantity, size and condition of each outdoor recreation facility that your organization owns or manages in each County for each of the following categories (as applicable):

FACILITY	QUANTITY (EST.)	GENERAL CONDITION
Parks/Open Space	Acres:	
Picnic areas	#	
Skate parks	#	
Ice skating rinks	#	
Roller skating rinks	#	
Golf courses	#	
Fitness courses	#	
Climbing walls/areas	#	
Fairgrounds	#	
Horse/rodeo arenas	#	
Baseball fields	#	
Softball fields	#	
Football fields	#	
Soccer fields	#	
Track, running	#	
Volleyball courts	#	
Basketball courts:		
5 = Excellent Condition (new/nearly new)	#	
4 = Good Condition	#	
3 = Fair Condition	#	
2 = Poor Condition	#	
1 = Very Poor Condition (near closure)	#	
Tennis courts:		
5 = Excellent Condition (new/nearly new)	#	
4 = Good Condition	#	
3 = Fair Condition	#	
2 = Poor Condition	#	
1 = Very Poor Condition (near closure)	#	
Playgrounds:		
5 = Excellent Condition (new/nearly new)	#	
4 = Good Condition	#	

Where applicable, please enter a numeric value for the condition of the facility in the General Condition column:

5 = Excellent (new/nearly new)
 4 = Good
 3 = Fair
 2 = Poor
 1 = Very Poor (near closure)

3 = Fair Condition	#	
2 = Poor Condition	#	
1 = Very Poor Condition (near closure)	#	
Swimming pool(s)/Water park(s):		
5 = Excellent Condition (new/nearly new)	#	
4 = Good Condition	#	
3 = Fair Condition	#	
2 = Poor Condition	#	
1 = Very Poor Condition (near closure)	#	
Lakes	Acres:	
Boat ramps/launch sites, lake	#	
Boat ramps/launch sites, river	#	
Boat docks	#	
Swimming beaches	#	
Fishing access sites	#	
Trails:		
Walking/hiking only trails	Miles:	
Bike/pedestrian trails, paved	Miles:	
Bike/pedestrian trails, unpaved	Miles:	
Horse/hiking trails	Miles:	
XC ski trails, groomed	Miles:	
Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails/roads	Miles:	
Snowmobile trails, groomed	Miles:	
Campgrounds:		
w/ Tent spaces	# of spaces:	
w/ Camper/RV hook-ups	# of spaces:	
w/ Camper/RV spaces, no hook-ups	# of spaces:	
RV dump stations	#	
Hunting lands, public	Acres:	
Shooting/archery range	#	
Downhill ski areas	Acres:	
Sledding/tubing hills	Acres:	
Other: _____	#	
Other: _____	#	
Other: _____	#	
Other: _____	#	

Where applicable, please enter a numeric value for the condition of the facility in the General Condition column:

- 5 = Excellent (new/nearly new)
- 4 = Good
- 3 = Fair
- 2 = Poor
- 1 = Very Poor (near closure)

SECTION 3: RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

5. Please indicate the type, priority (compared to other outdoor recreation facility needs) and estimated cost (if known) of your outdoor facility needs.

FACILITY	Type of Need (Check all that apply)				Priority of Need					Estimated Cost of Construction/Upgrade (excluding land acquisition)
	Not Applicable	Land Acquisition	New Construction	Upgrade/ Repair	Low 1	2	3	4	High 5	
Parks/Open space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Picnic areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Skate parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Ice skating rinks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Roller skating rinks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Golf courses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Fitness courses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Climbing walls/areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Fairgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Horse/rodeo arenas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Baseball fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Softball fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Football fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Soccer fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Track, running	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Volleyball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Basketball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Tennis courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Playgrounds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Swimming pool(s)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Lakes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Boat ramps, lake	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Boat ramps, river	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Boat docks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Swimming beaches	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Fishing access sites	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Trails:										
Walking/hiking only trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Bike/pedestrian trails, paved	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$

Bike/pedestrian trails, unpaved	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Horse/hiking trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
XC ski trails, groomed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails/roads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Snowmobile trails, groomed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Campgrounds:										
Tent spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Camper/RV spaces w/ hook-up	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Camper/RV spaces w/out hook-up	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
RV dump stations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Hunting lands, public	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Shooting/archery range	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Downhill ski areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Sledding/tubing hills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$
Other:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	\$

6. In the next five years, what are your top 3 *outdoor* recreation facility needs to serve local youth (under age 18)?

7. In the next five years, what are your top 3 *outdoor* recreation facility needs to serve local adults (ages 19 to 50)?

8. In the next five years, what are your top 3 *outdoor* recreation facility needs to serve local mature adults (over age 50)?

9. In the next five years, what are your top 3 *outdoor* recreation facility needs to serve non-local visitors/tourists?

10. Which of your *outdoor* recreation facilities do not meet ADA accessibility standards?

Facility Type

Type of Access Needed

11. What are your major challenges, obstacles or barriers to managing or providing *outdoor* recreation facilities?

12. Do you have specific comments or suggestions about the Land & Water Conservation Fund program, the grant application or community survey process, or other issues/needs related to outdoor recreation in Montana?

SECTION 4: PRIVATE SECTOR FACILITIES (Question 13 is for city and county respondents only.)

13. Please indicate the quantity and size of any privately owned outdoor recreation facilities (excluding public or tribally-owned facilities) within your City limits or County (outside any city limits) that are open to the public and meet some of the local community outdoor recreation needs.

PRIVATELY OWNED FACILITY	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	OWNER TYPE
Parks/Open Space	Acres:	
Picnic areas	#	
Skate parks	#	
Ice skating rinks	#	
Roller skating rinks	#	
Golf courses	#	
Fitness courses	#	
Climbing walls/areas	#	
Fairgrounds	#	
Horse/rodeo arenas	#	
Baseball fields	#	

Please indicate one of the following for OWNER TYPE:

PB = Private Business

CH = Church or Private School

CL = Club (Boys & Girls, YMCA, Gun Club, etc.)

NP = Other Nonprofit Organization

O = Other

Softball fields	#	
Football fields	#	
Soccer fields	#	
Track, running	#	
Volleyball courts	#	
Basketball courts	#	
Tennis courts	#	
Playgrounds	#	
Swimming pool(s)/Water parks	#	
Lakes	Acres:	
Boat ramps, lake	#	
Boat ramps, river	#	
Boat docks	#	
Swimming beaches	#	
Fishing access sites	#	
Trails:		
Walking/hiking <u>only</u> trails	Miles:	
Bike/pedestrian trails, paved	Miles:	
Bike/pedestrian trails, unpaved	Miles:	
Horse/hiking trails	Miles:	
XC ski trails, groomed	Miles:	
Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails/roads	Miles:	
Snowmobile trails, groomed	Miles:	
Campgrounds:		
w/ Tent spaces	# of spaces:	
w/ Camper/RV hook-ups	# of spaces:	
w/ Camper/RV spaces, no hook-ups	# of spaces:	
RV dump stations	#	
Hunting lands, open to public	Acres:	
Shooting/archery range	#	
Downhill ski areas	Acres:	
Sledding/tubing hills	Acres:	
Other: _____	#	
Other: _____	#	

Please indicate one of the following for OWNER TYPE:

PB = Private Business

CH = Church or Private School

CL = Club (Boys & Girls, YMCA, Gun Club, etc.)

NP = Other Nonprofit Organization

O = Other

Thank you for your time and assistance!

Please return the survey to:

The Hingston Roach Group, Inc., PO Box 400, Grangeville, ID 83530 (208) 983-2175

lroach@thrgroup.com Project web site: <http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/scorp/default.asp>



SCORP ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

In October 2002, more than 550 potential public sector online survey participants were contacted by both mail and email, using lists from FWP, participant organizations, and agencies (see sidebar at right). Due to time and budget constraints, private sector entities were not surveyed; however, city and county participants were asked to estimate the quantity of privately-owned outdoor recreation facilities within their city or county jurisdiction. A total of 236 online questionnaires were completed, representing 95 local, tribal, state and federal entities from all seven FWP administrative regions. Survey participants represented the following organizations with public outdoor recreation facilities:

- Alberton Schools
- Anderson Elementary School
- Arlee K-12 Schools
- Augusta K-12 Schools
- Baker K-12 Schools
- City of Big Timber
- Bigfork K-12 Schools
- Billings Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Blue Sky K-12 Schools
- Boulder Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Bozeman Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Brady K-12 Schools
- Bureau of Land Management
- Butte Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Butte/Anaconda/Deer Lodge Greenway Service District
- City of Cascade
- Cayuse Prairie K-12 Schools
- City of Chester
- City of Chinook
- Chinook K-12 Schools
- Colstrip Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Conrad Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Corp Of Engineers: Ft. Peck Lake; Libby Dam
- City of Culbertson
- Deer Lodge Elementary School
- City of Denton
- City of Dillon
- City of Drummond
- Drummond K-12 Schools
- Dull Knife Memorial College
- East Helena Elementary School
- City of Ekalaka
- City of Eureka
- City of Fairview
- Fallon County
- Florence-Carlton K-12 Schools
- City of Fort Benton
- Fort Benton K-12 Schools
- City of Fort Peck
- Frenchtown School District #10
- Gallatin County Fairgrounds
- Gallatin Gateway Elementary School
- City of Geraldine
- Glasgow K-12 Schools
- Hardin K-12 Schools
- Harlem K-12 Schools
- City of Harlowton
- Havre K-12 Schools
- Helena K-12 Schools
- Helena Parks & Recreation Dept.
- City of Hot Springs
- Huntley Project K-12 Schools
- Kalispell Elementary & Flathead High School

Appendix B: Online Survey Participants

Online Facility Inventory Survey Participant Groups Contacted

- Montana Cities (Montana League of Cities and Towns)
- Montana Counties (Montana Association of Counties)
- School Districts (Montana School District Superintendents)
- Montana Park & Recreation Districts (MRPA)
- Montana Tribes & Tribal Colleges
- Montana Colleges & Universities
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Montana Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation (DNRC)
- USDA Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Bureau of Reclamation

- Kalispell Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Lewis & Clark County
- Libby K-12 Schools
- Liberty County
- Lolo Elementary School
- Madison County
- Manhattan K-12 Schools
- Missoula County Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Missoula Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Moore K-12 Schools
- Nashua K-12 Schools
- NPS: Big Hole Nat'l Battlefield; Bighorn Battlefield NM; Bighorn Canyon NRA; Glacier NP
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Ophir Elementary
- Plevna School District 55
- City of Polson
- Polson K-12 Schools
- Reedpoint K-12 Schools
- Richey High School
- Ronan K-12 Schools
- Salish & Kootenai Tribe
- Shields Valley K-12 Schools
- Somers Elementary School
- Stevensville K-12 Schools
- Sunburst K-12 Schools
- City of Superior
- Sweet Grass County High School
- Sweetgrass County
- Terry K-12 Schools
- Traveler's Rest, Lolo, MT
- USDA Forest Service
- USFWS: Benton Lake NWR/WMD; Charles M. Russell NWR; Lee Metcalf NWR; Medicine Lake NWR; USFWS: Red Rock Lakes NWR
- West Yellowstone K-12 Schools
- West Yellowstone Parks & Recreation Dept.
- White Sulphur Springs K-12 Schools
- City of Wibaux
- Wolf Point K-12 Schools
- Yellowstone County

WETLANDS IN MONTANA

C.1 Introduction, Purpose & Definition of Wetlands

The Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986 requires that each Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) include a section about wetlands. This appendix is designed to meet that requirement by providing information about Montana's wetlands as follows:

- C.1 Introduction, Purpose & Definition of Wetlands
 - Responsibility for Wetlands in Montana
 - Relationship of Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program to Wetlands
- C.2 Benefits of Wetlands
- C.3 Challenges of Wetlands
- C.4 Ownership & Management of Wetlands in Montana
- C.5 Montana Wetlands Strategy
- C.6 Wetlands Conservation Resources
- C.7 LWCF Wetlands Acquisition

Definition of Wetlands

Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.¹ Under this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes:

1. At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (plants specifically adapted to live in wetlands);
2. The substrate is predominantly un-drained hydric (wetlands) soil; and
3. The substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

Therefore, wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs, fens and lowlands covered with shallow and sometimes ephemeral water (water present only in response to precipitation events) or intermittent water (water present for several weeks or months per year). The term wetlands also includes wet meadows, potholes, sloughs, the riparian zone, and river overflow zones. Shallow lakes and ponds, usually with emergent vegetations are included in the definition of wetlands. Permanent waters deeper than 2 meters (6.6 feet) are not included in the definition. Montana's wetlands include four major types:

- ♦ Depression wetlands: prairie and montane potholes, oxbows, ponds and lakeside wetlands;
- ♦ Slope wetlands: peat lands (fens), wet meadows, seeps, springs;
- ♦ Riverine wetlands: riparian wetlands, wetland floodplains and river sloughs; and
- ♦ Artificial or man-made wetlands.

Appendix C:

Wetlands in Montana

- ♦ Definition of Wetlands
- ♦ Benefits of Wetlands
- ♦ Challenges of Wetlands
- ♦ Ownership/Management
- ♦ Montana Wetlands Strategy
- ♦ Conservation Resources
- ♦ Wetland Acquisition

¹ National Wetlands Priority Conservation Policy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service standard for wetlands classification, "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" by L.M. Cowardin, V. Carter, F.C. Golet, E.T. LaRoe (1979) FWS/OBS-79/31, 131 pp.

Table C.1
Overall Recreation Activity
Participation of Montana
Households 1998-99

Activity	%
Walking	75%
Recreational Shopping	53%
Wildlife Watching	52%
Attending Sporting Events	47%
Day Hiking	37%
Biking	35%
Attending Festivals	34%
Swimming	32%
Picnicking	31%
Attending Performances	29%
Participate in Sporting Events	29%
Nature Photography	29%
Visiting Museums	29%
Visiting Interpretive Centers	28%
Fishing (other than fly)	27%
Gambling	24%
Visiting Art Galleries	24%
Motorcycling	22%
Visiting Native American Sites	19%
Hunting	18%
Camping - Tent	18%
Golfing	16%
Horseback Riding	15%
Visiting Attractions	14%
Fly Fishing	13%
Boating - Motorized	13%
Camping - Vehicle	13%
Backpacking	12%
Boating - Nonmotorized	11%
Sledding	11%
ATV/Off-road Recreation	10%
Downhill Skiing	10%
Snowmobiling	7%
Water Skiing	6%
Cross Country Skiing	5%
Ice Fishing	5%
Snowboarding	4%
Snowshoeing	2%

Source: ITRR Report 68

Responsibility for Wetlands in Montana

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) plays a lead role in statewide wetlands conservation, education and coordination of activities, along with the Montana Wetlands Council, other state and federal agencies, tribes and private landowners. At the federal level, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are the lead regulatory agencies for wetlands under EPA's Clean Water Act.

Relationship of Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program to Wetlands

The LWCF program provides funding for Section 6F Mitigation of Wetlands in cases where public outdoor recreation facility development will impact existing wetlands, or in cases where a community or eligible agency desires to acquire (through purchase or conservation easement) wetlands for outdoor recreation purposes.

C.2 Benefits of Wetlands

Montana's wetlands impart many benefits because provide a multitude of ecological, economic and social benefits. They provide habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. Wetlands also are important landscape features because they hold and slowly release flood water and snow melt, recharge groundwater, act as filters to cleanse water of impurities, recycle nutrients, and provide recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Habitat: Wetlands and associated uplands form ecosystems that support a myriad of plants and animals, including many species of rare and endangered plants and animals found only in wetlands. Wetlands also act as nurseries for game fishing species. Waterfowl rely on wetlands for nesting, feeding and resting during migration. Big game and a variety of other mammals and birds use wetlands as a water source. Additionally, many species of frogs, snakes and turtles require wetlands. Loss of critical wetlands negatively impacts all types of wildlife and plants.

Conservation: Wetlands conserve natural resources through flood reduction, erosion control, water quality enhancement, biological diversity and productivity and groundwater recharge. They filter excess nutrients, sediment and other pollutants from water before it reaches streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Wetlands also enrich open space by providing a variety of vegetation and wildlife.

Recreation: State and national recreation research as described within the main body of this SCORP consistently indicates that fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting, and boating are popular outdoor recreation activities, and wetlands are integral to their vitality. Wetlands enhance fishing and hunting through provision of fish and wildlife habitat. Bird watching, one of the fastest growing recreational activities in the nation, is enhanced by wetlands providing many high quality bird watching locations. Also, enhanced water quality improves boating and swimming experiences in lakes, rivers and streams.

Economics: According to the Environmental Protection agency, wetlands contribute to the national economy by producing resources and commodities and providing other economic benefits. Wetlands provide plant food for commercial and recreational fish industries; contribute to recreational opportunities, improve water quality, and help control floods. Moreover, wetlands can provide economic benefits to communities. The United States Geological Survey

found that Montanans value wetlands for recreation, education and aesthetics². In 1998-99, a study of Montanans' recreation habits by the University of Montana Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research (ITRR) indicated that a significant percentage of Montanans enjoy wildlife watching (52%), hiking (37%), nature photography (29%) and fishing (27%) (Table C.1). Wetlands are important to tourism for the extensive opportunities they provide for fishing, camping, and wildlife viewing. A 2000-2001 ITRR study of nonresident visitors indicated that wildlife watching, fishing and nature study were among the top activities of tourists (Table C.2). Nationally, approximately 160 million Americans spent \$29.2 billion in the U.S. to observe, photograph or feed wildlife in 1996³. Moreover, bird watching in the U.S. is growing at a faster rate than biking, pleasure walking, skiing and golf among recreational activities, with some 21 million participants. While not all of these activities occur in wetlands, the data demonstrate a tremendous national interest in wildlife. Additionally, wetlands stop pollutants from entering receiving waters, contain flood water storage, and often enhance property values and marketability.

C.3 Wetlands Challenges

Mitigation of Conservation Impacts

While wetlands conservation has many positive impacts, the act of acquiring wetlands also can remove land from local tax rolls, remove agricultural lands from production, and prevent or redirect community growth and development. Some of the issues affecting Montana today include private property rights and jurisdiction (designation of wetlands as land or water), and conflicts between wetlands conservationists and agricultural interests who would like to utilize water from wetlands for irrigation, especially during times of drought. It is important to understand and mitigate the negative economic impacts of wetlands conservation in order to maximize the positive impacts. Ongoing planning for wetlands protection and restoration should consider and involve all parties affected by wetland conservation.

Overuse

While wetlands provide significant recreation benefits, there is a potential for overuse of wetlands by visitors. Visitation by both residents and nonresidents must be balanced with protection of the resource in order to retain sustainability of the wetlands conditions for the long term.

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) appeared in the U.S in 1999 and reached Montana in 2002. This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes, which breed in standing water. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is working with the state departments of Livestock, FWP and Agriculture on a disease surveillance and mosquito abatement program. Nationally, the focus of WNV prevention efforts are on urban mosquitoes, through control of standing water sources such as old flower pots, birdbaths, paint cans, tires and irrigation canals.

Table C.2

MT Nonresident Traveler Activities		
Activity	# Visitors	%
Shopping	3,606,030	18.6
Wildlife watching	2,697,678	13.9
Day Hiking	2,401,564	12.4
Picnicking	1,954,901	10.1
Camping (devlp)	1,632,460	8.4
Fishing	1,208,550	6.2
Nature Study	847,366	4.4
Gambling	785,264	4.1
Camping (undevelp)	704,911	3.6
Golfing	478,241	2.5
Rafting/Floating	425,728	2.2
Sporting Event	345,092	1.8
Backpacking	296,796	1.5
Off highway/ATV	256,730	1.3
Motor Boating	246,909	1.3
Downhill Skiing	242,262	1.3
Hunting	217,458	1.1
Mtn Biking	215,629	1.1
Road/Tour Biking	213,056	1.1
Canoe/Kayaking	181,445	0.9
Snowmobiling	115,425	0.6
XC Skiing	69,125	0.4
Water-skiing	68,090	0.4
Snowboarding	57,712	0.3
Snowshoeing	57,712	0.3
Ice Fishing	19,237	0.1
	19,345,372	100.0

Source: ITRR 2000-2001 Traveler Study

² National Water Summary on Wetland Resources, Water-Supply Paper 2425, 1996, U.S. Geological Survey.

³ The North American Bird Conservation Initiative in the United States: *A Vision of American Bird Conservation*, 2000, U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative Committee.

There's More Than One Way to Protect Wetlands

- Every year, the federal government and Americans across the country preserve, restore and enhance thousands of acres of wetlands through cooperative conservation efforts, partnerships and voluntary programs.
- In 2000, 1.96 million acres of wetlands were safeguarded and preserved through nonregulatory efforts. 200,000+ acres of wetlands in FWS National Wildlife Refuges were rehabilitated, and 2,000 acres of wetlands were added. Other public-private partnerships created, restored or protected an additional 108,000 acres of wetlands.
- What's more, these figures actually understate the total wetlands preserved through voluntary efforts. They do not include wetlands restored or protected by private landowners working on their own. They do not take into account the expansion in citizen stewardship and cooperative conservation programs which accelerate wetland protection through private-federal collaboration.
- No single partnership will conserve America's wetlands. But taken collectively, the partnerships point to a compelling strategy. By leveraging public dollars to expand volunteer partnerships, we can address the needs of wetlands and meet or exceed the goals we have set for ourselves.

Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior
and Ann Veneman, Secretary of
Agriculture

Source: *New York Times*

While some wetlands provide habitat for mosquitoes, healthy wetlands are less likely to harbor disease-carrying mosquitoes, especially when they are supplied by a clean water source and contain a balance of vegetation, wildlife, water and predator/prey relationships. The Montana Department of Health and Human Services recommends an Integrated Pest Management approach, utilizing biologically controlled larvicides, as well as adult mosquito control. The Centers for Disease Control specifies methods for prevention of the virus (See section C.6). The DPHHS web site provides detailed information about WNV prevention and mosquito control: <http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/news/westnilevirus/westnilevirus.htm>. It is important for outdoor recreation managers to be aware of WNV issues, and inform the public about the importance of avoiding being bitten and using mosquito repellants while recreating outdoors.

C.4 Ownership & Management of Wetlands in Montana

According to 1980's estimates, approximately 840,000 acres of land in Montana are wetlands (0.9% of the state's land area)⁴. Significant wetlands exist in northern Montana. Southeastern Montana has the fewest wetlands, but still has significant riparian wetlands areas along the Powder and Tongue Rivers. Since only 37.5% of Montana is publicly owned, private landowners play a major role in protecting and managing wetlands. Dahl (1990) estimated that since the time of western development, approximately 27% of Montana's wetlands have been lost to filling or drainage, largely as a result of agricultural conversion and infrastructure development. However, a systematic inventory of Montana's wetlands, which has been underway for 21 years, has not been completed. Providing wetland management technical and financial assistance to private landowners is a major priority for federal and state agencies working on wetland resources in Montana.

Montana's wetlands are owned and managed by numerous public and private entities. The following paragraphs provide an overview of wetlands stewardship and management in Montana.

STATE AGENCIES

DEQ: The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) plays a lead role in wetlands protection and conservation in Montana. The Montana DEQ addresses wetlands through various activities including administration of the EPA 104(b)(3) Wetlands Protection Grants Program; Section 401 certification of the Clean Water Act; wetlands monitoring and assessment; and leadership for the Montana Wetlands Council (see section C.5). The Montana Wetland Clearinghouse, which is part of the Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), managed by the Montana State Library, can be found at <http://nr.is.state.mt.us/wis/wetlands>.

DNRC: The Montana Department Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) manages all land below the low water level of navigable lakes and streams, along with 5.2 million acres of land statewide. An estimate of the wetlands acres under management by DNRC is not available.

FWP: Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) does not have data about the acreage of land it manages that can be classified as wetlands. However, wetlands are a priority concern to FWP because wetlands, riparian areas, and associated uplands are essential to the conservation of Montana's fish and wildlife populations and outdoor recreation opportunities. A goal of FWP is healthy and fully functioning wetlands for the benefit of all who live in or visit the state.

⁴ Dahl, T.E. (1990): *Wetlandss - Losses in the United States, 1780's to 1980's*, USF&WS.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

EPA: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plays a key role in wetland protection because it administers the Clean Water Act (1972). The stated purpose of the Clean Water Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity” of the nation's waters. In addition to a regulatory approach to protect wetlands, EPA provides technical and financial assistance to states, local governments and tribes, and outreach to the public. For more information: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands; or www.epa.gov/region8/water/wetlands/wetlands.html Region 8 Wetlands serving Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 27 Tribal Nations

COE: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) also has a regulatory role in wetland protection. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is jointly administered by the COE and EPA, and requires approval from the COE before placing dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Jurisdictional information can be found at www.nwo.usace.army.mil (under Permits - Montana).

NRCS: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works in partnership with private landowners to conserve natural resources on private lands. NRCS administers numerous technical and financial assistance programs, including several programs aimed at restoring and protecting wetlands on private lands.

BLM: Pre-1997 data indicates that the Montana Bureau of Land Management (BLM) district is responsible for 62,514 acres of wetlands. While the majority of these wetlands are found in the eastern Montana pothole regions, additional acreage is found in North and South Dakota. The BLM is working on wetlands mapping with two primary emphases: proper functioning condition and waterfowl habitat value. To date the mapping has been completed for less than 10,000 acres across Montana and the Dakotas, or 16% of the total estimated acreage. Mapping also is being completed in coordination with Ducks Unlimited using satellite imagery to determine priority conservation areas, and the resulting data will help determine existing wetlands conditions.

NPS/GNP: The National Park Service (NPS)/Glacier National Park (GNP) encompasses 1,007,963 total acres, of which 37,848 are wetlands. These wetlands have been classified as lacustrine (26,806 acres), palustrine (7,812 acres) and riverine (3,230 acres) varieties.

USFS: The USDA Forest Service (USFS) also has significant holdings of wetlands, estimated to be 382,700 acres, or 2% of the 19,135,000 acres of the Forest Service lands in Montana. Mapping and data analyses of wetlands is ongoing.

USFWS: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages significant wetlands acreage in Montana, and possesses detailed information about wetlands acreage and use. Specifically, USFWS manages 128,000 acres of wetlands across five wetland management districts (WMD): Benton Lake Wetlands WMD, Bowdoin WMD, Charles M. Russell WMD, Northeast Montana WMD, and Northwest Montana WMD. These management districts enhance biological diversity and recreation opportunities, including fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and educational activities.

Region 6 of the USFWS is headquartered in Denver, Colorado. The region is responsible for prioritization of wetlands protection by means of strategies contained in the *Regional Wetlands Concept Plan*, USFWS Mountain Prairie Region (July 1990).

According to the overall USFWS wetlands prioritization policy: “Wetlands given priority consideration for acquisition will be those that provide a high degree of public benefits, which are representative of rare or declining wetlands types within an eco-region and that are subject to identifiable threats of loss or degradation. Threshold criteria to be considered in

Summary of Wetlands Acreage in Montana by Managing Entity	
USFS (estim.):	382,700
USFWS (estim.):	128,000
BLM (estim.):	62,514
NPS (estim.):	37,848
MT FWP:	??
MT DNRC:	??
Montana Tribes:	??
Private Landowners:	??
Other:	??

determining acquisition priorities include functions and values of wetlands, historic wetlands losses, and threat of future wetlands losses.”

At a higher level, the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan (NWPCP) considers the following:

1. Estimated proportion remaining of the respective types of wetlands which existed at the time of European settlement;
2. Estimated current rate of loss and threat of future losses of the respective types of wetlands;
3. Contributions of the respective types of wetlands to:
 - a. Wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, and resident species;
 - b. Commercial and sport fisheries;
 - c. Surface and groundwater quality and quantity, and flood control;
 - d. Outdoor recreation; and
 - e. Other areas or concerns which are considered appropriate, such as natural attributes, education, research, scenic, archaeological, historical and open space issues.

When a wetlands site is added to the USFWS list of wetlands sites warranting priority consideration for acquisition, it does not mean that the wetlands necessarily will be acquired; rather, that the site qualifies for acquisition consideration. Any subsequent decision to purchase property must rely on willing sellers, additional data, funding availability, policies, and conditions that are not a part of the NWPCP. Any listing of wetlands for acquisition consideration has no direct bearing on Federal regulatory programs or the evaluation of wetlands for regulatory purposes.

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS: 62.5% of Montana is privately owned, and these land stewards play a large role in wetlands management. The USFWS, NRCS, FWP and several other agencies and organizations provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners in their conservation efforts.

C.5 Montana Wetlands Conservation Strategy

In the early 1990's, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality/Water Quality Division (DEQ/WQD) received EPA grant funds to develop a Montana Wetlands Conservation Strategy. DEQ hired a State Wetland Coordinator, who assembled a Montana Wetlands Council – a forum of interested individuals and groups focused on wetlands conservation and management. The Council developed a wetlands conservation strategy that is used as Montana's conservation directive, and available online at <http://nr.is.state.mt.us/wis/wetcouncilmain.html>. The Montana conservation strategy is consistent with the national policy of no net loss of wetlands acreage. As a part of this strategy, one of the objectives is to identify and prioritize unique, high-quality wetlands. In order to achieve wetlands conservation goals, the Montana Wetlands Council has developed a strategy with three primary goals:

1. Enhance public education about wetlands;
2. Complete the National Wetlands Inventory of Montana; and
3. Improve voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs.

Education

Public education about wetlands is a priority to help citizens understand the function and benefits of wetlands, as well as proper wetlands stewardship. The Environmental Protection Agency 104(b)(3) wetlands protection grant program funds about \$50,000 of wetlands youth and adult public education programs annually. Part of this funding is used for a Montana

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation wetlands education program, *Watercourse*, which provides information about wetlands through stewardship workshops and support to communities.

National Wetlands Inventory

The National Wetlands Inventory is a non-regulatory inventory to help managers and the public locate and classify ecological wetlands for a variety of purposes. Maps are based on high altitude infrared photography and produced on standard U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000 topographic maps. About one third of Montana has been mapped, but only 20% is digitized, and of the remainder, half has not been photo-interpreted. Figure C.1 at right shows the status of the National Wetlands Inventory for Montana. The most current work scheduled for inventory includes 520 miles along the Madison and Missouri River corridors from Lake Hebgen to Fort Peck Dam. Nationally, only Utah matches Montana in the incompleteness of its wetlands inventory.

Voluntary, Incentive-Based Conservation

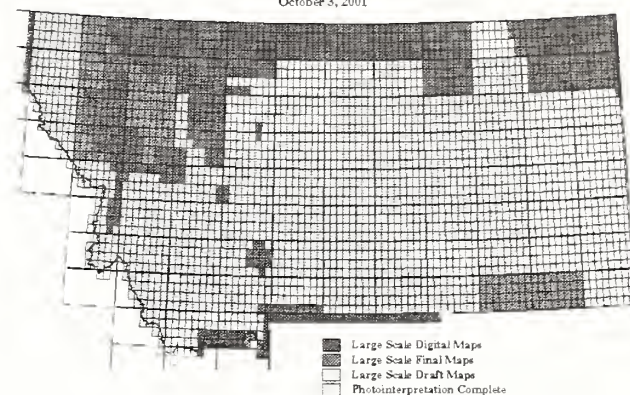
Voluntary, incentive-based conservation is a primary goal because the Council recognizes the role private land stewardship plays in wetlands conservation. Private wetlands conservation is being promoted in a number of ways, including land owner workshops and the publication, *A Landowner's Guide to Montana Wetlands* (available online at <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/wetlands/LandownerGWetlands.pdf> or via mail from the Montana Watercourse program (see section C.6). This very useful guide includes wetlands definitions, incentive programs available through state and federal agencies, and contacts to assist landowners with wetlands conservation and management. One conservation approach not included in the Landowner's Guide is the updated Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plan which was included in the 2002 Farm Bill

The *Planners Guide for Montana Wetlands*, available from Montana DEQ, addresses planning issues to protect wetlands and riparian areas of interest to local government planners, planning board members, elected local officials and interested citizens.

Wetland Prioritization

One of the suggested requirements for a SCORP wetlands section is a listing of wetland types which should receive priority for acquisition. Unfortunately, this type of list is not currently available for Montana. Whenever the LWCF program is required to make a choice between two or more distinct wetland areas as part of a mitigation proposal, recreation facility managers are encouraged to consult with wetland experts to prioritize and rank the wetlands in order of their desirability for acquisition. Other resources include Montana Watercourse section, page C-9, and the manual, "Who Does What With Montana's Wetlands." See "Wetland Consultants", page C-9, and the US Army Corps of Engineers' engineering and environmental consultant list. Managers are also advised to utilize the Montana Wetland Assessment Method (May 25, 1999), an 18-page document prepared for the Montana Department of Transportation. The document outlines a wetland evaluation method which was developed for application to highway projects in Montana, and was facilitated by the Montana Department of Transportation and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Figure C.1
Status of Montana
National Wetland Inventory Maps
October 3, 2001



Partners of the Wetlands Legacy

- American Public Land Exchange
- American Rivers
- Aquatic Design and Construction
- Bitter Root Land Trust
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc
- Five Valleys Land Trust
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust
- Montana Audobon Council
- Montana Dept. of Environ'l Quality
- Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
- Montana Dept. of Transportation
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fdtn
- Montana Land Reliance
- Montana Natural Heritage Program
- Montana Natural History Center
- Montana Ranchers, Farmers, Other Landowners
- Montana Watercourse
- Pheasants Forever
- PPL Montana
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- River Network
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other Interested Individuals

C.6 Wetlands Conservation Resources

There are two main arenas of wetlands conservation activity: public and private. Private avenues of conservation are well defined in *A Landowner's Guide to Montana Wetlands* available from the Montana Watercourse Program listed on the next page. The Guide includes groups involved in private wetlands conservation such as the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited and the Farm Service Agency. There are additional funding sources or programs available specifically for public wetlands conservation. Helpful programs and resources are described below.

WETLANDS LEGACY: The Montana Wetlands Legacy is a partnership of over 30 entities interested in supporting voluntary "on-the-ground" wetlands protection. The Legacy's main goal, established in May of 2000, is to protect 250,000 acres of ecologically important wetlands, riparian areas, and associated uplands by May of 2005. As of October 2001, the Legacy had protected approximately 70,000 acres, and additional acreage is protected but not yet quantified. The Legacy actively coordinates efforts with various groups such as the USFWS, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

Contact: Tom Hinz
Montana Wetlands Legacy Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1400 South Nineteenth, Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-7889, thinz@montana.edu
www.wetlandslegacy.org

MONTANA WETLANDS COUNCIL: The Montana Wetlands Council is a forum that promotes cooperative wetland resource management in Montana. Their mission is to develop a strategy and coordinate efforts to protect, conserve, and enhance Montana wetland resources for present and future generations. They support environmentally responsible wetland resource stewardship through the cooperation of public and private interests. As listed on their web site, their strategic statement says: "We will actively seek comments, concerns, and needs from private landowners and groups when developing strategies related to wetlands." <http://nr.is.state.mt.us/wis/wetcouncilmain.html>.

Contact: Lynda Saul, Coordinator
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E. 6th Ave., P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-6652, lsaul@state.mt.us

CHALLENGE COST SHARE: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a Challenge Cost Share program that can be used to fund the protection of riparian and wetlands sites. The Challenge Cost Share Program partners state and private groups and matches them with federal funds for conservation activities. Qualification for the program requires matching funds or donations of labor/material; a minimum of a 1:1 ratio of federal to non-federal dollars; and application at the national level. On average, the Montana-Dakota region receives \$700,000 annually.

Contact: Roxanne Falise
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107
(406) 896-5025

WETLANDS GRANTS: The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the Wetlands Protection Grants Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and disseminates information about other wetlands conservation resources. The Wetlands Protection Grant program is an annual program for tribal, state and

local governments to use in developing the capacity to protect wetlands resources. Public entities submit proposals for protection funding, which are evaluated based on the significance of the wetlands and the number of applications received.

Contact: Lynda Saul, Wetland Coordinator
Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E. Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901
(406) 444-6652, lsaul@state.mt.us

MDT WETLANDS MITIGATION: The Montana Department Transportation (MDT) performs wetlands mitigation as a result of permanently displacing wetlands during road construction. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Federal Highway regulation CFR 777, and Executive Order #11990 require mitigation for impacts. MDT seeks locations for matching acreage in mitigation. MDT also has a proven method of evaluating wetlands which is useful to public entities in determining wetlands quality.

Contact: Lawrence Urban
Montana Department of Transportation
Environmental Services Bureau, Mitigation
P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-1001
(406) 444-6224

MONTANA WATERCOURSE: The Montana Watercourse is based at Montana State University in Bozeman, and is dedicated to providing quality publications and products for wetlands education. Significant educational tools include the WET water education course for teachers, and “WOW!” – the Wonders of Wetlands training to teachers. The Montana Watercourse also is involved in creating a planners guide to wetlands which provides information to local governments about how to conserve wetlands. The Montana Watercourse has published the manual, *Who Does What With Montana’s Wetlands*, which is very useful in the determination of what to do with wetlands; and can be found online at <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/wetlandswho.pdf>. The document was published in 1998, so some of the contacts have changes, but it is the most readily available and comprehensive source of who does what with Montana wetlands.

Contact: Karen Filipovich
Director of Montana Watercourse, Montana State University
P.O. Box 170575, Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 994-6671

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV): The Centers for Disease Control specifies methods for prevention of the virus. The web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/overview.htm>, is dedicated to description and prevention of illnesses related to the virus.

WETLAND CONSULTANTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has an extensive and periodically updated list of engineering and environmental consultants known to have worked in Montana. The list can be found at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rmt/consultantsnov7.htm>, or can be obtained by calling (406) 441-1375.

EPA'S ADOPT-A-WETLAND PROGRAM: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with other government agencies, nonprofit organizations and local citizens, shares responsibility for protecting our wetland resources. The EPA recognizes that an effective wetland protection program requires citizen involvement and sponsor’s the Adopt-A-Wetland Program which encourages local groups to act as guardians of valuable wetlands resources. Information about the program is available from EPA Region 8 Wetlands Program, Mail Code: 8-EPR-EP, 999-18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202-2405

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF): Montana's LWCF Program will have little overall consequence for wetlands protection and enhancement in the state. However, as was previously noted, there are two ways in which LWCF may be of value. A project sponsor may submit a grant application in which the project scope includes wetlands acquisition for recreational purposes. In addition, wetlands may be considered as replacement property in some instances where such land is needed to mitigate impacts of development. More details are provided below.

Contact: Walter W. Timmerman
Recreation Bureau Chief, Parks Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3753, wtimmerman@state.mt.us

C.7 LWCF Wetlands Acquisition

Projects for acquisition of natural areas, including wetlands, are eligible for LWCF assistance. According to the LWCF Grants Manual (Chapter 640.2 (1) Types of Acquisition), a sponsor may acquire "lands and waters for public outdoor recreation, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife areas, beaches, and other similar areas." It continues, under 1(A), to include, "Areas with frontage on oceans, rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries, and reservoirs that will provide water-based public recreation opportunities, or the acquisition of water bodies themselves;" 1(B), "Land for creating water impoundments to provide water-based public outdoor recreation opportunities;" and 1(C), "Areas that provide special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands, and areas adjacent to scenic highways."

State-sponsored projects have included a number of acquisition projects involving wetland resources. The State of Montana typically allocates half of available LWCF funds to local community projects and utilizes the remainder for state-sponsored projects, which include State Parks, Fishing Access Sites (FAS), and Wildlife Management Areas. The state now manages over 320 fishing access sites across the state. The majority of these sites were acquired with LWCF assistance. Most of these sites are situated on rivers; however, a number also include riparian habitat, marshes, and other bodies of water commonly defined as wetlands. State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas also include natural areas with wetlands.

Most LWCF grant applications submitted by local communities do not include wetlands acquisition components. Because Montana's annual LWCF apportionment is limited, the state caps the amount of funds a local community can request (currently \$75,000). Acquisitions of large wetland tracts would require the local sponsor to increase its contribution past the 50% matching requirement, perhaps in combination with other partners.

Section 6(F) Conversions

When development activities impact an LWCF-assisted site, the affected area is said to undergo a "conversion-in-use." A conversion triggers Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act of 1965 and replacement property is required as mitigation. The details are described in the LWCF Grants Manual (Chapter 675.9, Section 3) as follows.

Conversion. Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation. Any property so acquired or developed shall not be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of the NPS Regional Director pursuant to Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act and 36 CFR Part 59. The Director has authority to disapprove conversion request and/or to reject proposed property substitutions.



The conversion provisions of Section 6(f)(3), 36 CFR Part 59, and this Manual apply to each area or facility for which Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance is obtained, regardless of the extent of participation of the program in the assisted area or facility and consistent with the contractual agreement between NPS and the State. Responsibility for compliance and enforcement of these provisions rests with the State for both State **and** locally sponsored projects. The responsibilities cited herein are applicable to the area depicted or other wise described on the 6(f)(3) boundary map and/or as described in other project documentation approved by the Department of the Interior. In many instances, this mutually agreed to area exceeds that actually receiving LWCF assistance so as to assure the protection of a viable recreation entity.

A. Conversions applicability. Conversions generally occur in the following four situations:

1. Property interests are conveyed for non-public outdoor recreation uses.
2. Non-outdoor recreation uses (public or private) are made of the project area, or a portion thereof.
3. Non-eligible indoor recreation facilities are developed within the project area without NPS approval.
4. Public outdoor recreation use of property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance is terminated.
5. Exceptions.
 - a. Underground utility easements that do not have significant impacts upon the recreational utility of the park will not constitute a conversion.
 - b. Proposals to construct public facilities or to shelter or enclose Fund assisted or non-assisted outdoor recreation facilities without LWCF assistance, where it can be shown that there is a gain or increased benefit to public recreational opportunity, will not constitute a conversion. Final review and approval of such cases shall be made on a case by case basis by the responsible NPS office and in accordance with Section 640.3.9 and 675.9.3D-E.

B. Prerequisites to Consideration of Conversions. Requests from the project sponsor for permission to convert LWCF assisted properties in whole or in part to other than public outdoor recreation uses must be submitted by the State Liaison Officer to the appropriate NPS Regional Director in writing. NPS will consider conversion requests if the following prerequisites have been met:

1. All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.
2. The fair market value of the property to be converted has been established and the property proposed for substitution is of at least equal fair market value as established by a State approved appraisal (prepared in accordance with uniform Federal appraisal standards) excluding the value of structures or facilities that will not directly enhance its outdoor recreation utility.

Generally, this will necessitate a review of appraisals prepared in accord with Chapter 675.2 for both the property proposed to be converted and that recommended for substitution. However, at the discretion of the Regional Director, a State certification that appraisals of both properties are acceptable and reveal that the replacement property is of at least equal fair market value as that of the property to be converted can be accepted. Exercising this authority should be consistent with the State's review responsibilities with respect to donation appraisals (see 675.2.6E).

1. The property proposed for replacement is of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location as that being converted. Dependent upon the situation and the discretion of the Regional Director, the replacement property need not provide identical recreation experiences or be located at the same site, provided it is in a

reasonably equivalent location. Generally, the replacement property should be administered by the same political jurisdiction as the converted property. NPS will consider State requests to change the project sponsor when it is determined that a different political jurisdiction can better carry out the objectives of the original project agreement. Equivalent usefulness and location will be determined based on the following criteria:

- a. Property to be converted must be evaluated in order to determine what recreation needs are being fulfilled by the facilities which exist and the types of outdoor recreation resources and opportunities available. The property being proposed for substitution must then be evaluated in a similar manner to determine if it will meet recreation needs which are at least like in magnitude and impact to the user community as the converted site. This criterion is applicable in the consideration of all conversion requests with the exception of those where wetlands are proposed as replacement property.

In accordance with Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act as amended by Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, wetland areas and interests therein which have been identified in the wetlands provisions of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan shall be considered to be of reasonably equivalent usefulness with the property proposed for conversion regardless of the nature of the property proposed for conversion.

- b. Replacement property need not necessarily be directly adjacent to or close by the converted site. This policy provides the administrative flexibility to determine location recognizing that the property should meet existing public outdoor recreation need. While generally this will involve the selection of a site serving the same community(s) or area as the converted site, there may be exceptions. For example, if property being converted is in an area undergoing major demographic change and the area has no existing or anticipated future need for outdoor recreation, then the project sponsor should seek to locate the substitute area at another location within the jurisdiction.

In summary, when an LWCF site is used, wholly or in part, for other than outdoor recreation, a conversion is said to have taken place. Upon approval by the Department of the Interior, mitigation must include replacement property. Replacement property must be of equal fair market value--according to current federal appraisal standards--should be contiguous to the original site (if possible), and must be of equal recreational usefulness. Under law, all wetlands are considered to be of equal recreational usefulness; therefore, wetlands are always acceptable as replacement property.

References

- Montana Department of Transportation: *Wetlands Assessment Method* (1999).
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RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

This Resources Appendix is arranged by Federal, State, Local, and Private sources of funding and technical assistance for projects related to recreation, conservation, tourism, economic and community development, business development, transportation, and historic/cultural programs. Multiple programs that are available from a single source are presented in sub-listings under the source. For more information about each of the sources, contact the organization listed. For wetland conservation resources, see Appendix C: Wetlands in Montana. Reference materials and web site addresses used for research purposes are listed at the end of this appendix.

Appendix D:

Resources for Implementation: Funding and Technical Assistance

FEDERAL SOURCES

Federal Multi-Agency

- **Challenge Cost Share: USDA Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS)**
DESCRIPTION: The Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program provides matching funds to non-federal organizations' contributions for projects that provide new or enhanced opportunity for protection of natural/cultural/historic assets, interpretation, and recreation sites management. Once a project is approved, a cooperative agreement is prepared between the Agency and the partnership organization. Agency funding is made on a reimbursement basis for actual cost. The agreement requires some level of Agency involvement in the project.
CONTACT: USFS, Roger Henderson, PO Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807, Fax (406) 363-3264, www.fs.fed.us; BLM, Kim Prill, 5001 Southgate Dr., Billings MT 59101, (406) 896-5038, kprill@mt.blm.gov, www.blm.gov; NPS, Richard Williams (402) 221-3478 or Midori Raymore, (402) 221-3471, www.nps.gov/lecl/grants

Federal Sources

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG)**
DESCRIPTION: RBEG grants provide financing and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas (smaller than 50,000 population). Priority is given to applications for projects in open country, rural communities, and towns of 25,000 and smaller, and economically distressed communities.
AMOUNT: Variable amount. Costs that may be paid from grant funds include the acquisition and development of land, and the construction of buildings, plants, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utility and service extensions, refinancing, fees, technical assistance, marketing, startup operating cost and working capital. Grants may also be made to establish or fund revolving loan programs.
CONTACT: USDA Rural Development Office, 900 Technology Blvd, Suite B, Bozeman, MT 59717, (406) 585-2545, William W. Barr, bill.barr@mt.usda.gov, www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs.htm
- **Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)**
DESCRIPTION: RBOG grants provide technical assistance, training and planning activities that improve economic conditions in rural areas.
REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must be located in rural areas (cities <10,000 population). Nonprofit corporations and public bodies are eligible.
CONTACT: USDA Rural Development Office, 900 Technology Blvd, Suite B, Bozeman, MT 59717, (406) 585-2545, William W. Barr, bill.barr@mt.usda.gov, www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs.htm
- **Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)**
DESCRIPTION: The Resource Conservation & Development program encourages RC&D multi-county areas to plan, develop and carry out projects related to land conservation, water management, economic development and community sustainability. RC&D assists local units of government and nonprofit organizations to develop programs to improve their resources, and helps to secure technical and financial assistance with grants, loans, and other funding. A strong partnership exists between the NRCS, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and local RC&D councils. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the RC&D program.

Federal Sources

CONTACT: RC&D Area contacts are listed in county telephone books under U.S. Government/U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service, www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/offices.html. Montana RC&D, www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/rcd/index.asp

▪ **USDA Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development**

DESCRIPTION: Division of USDA Rural Business Cooperative Service offering assistance/grant funding for value-added agricultural products.

CONTACT: USDA Rural Development Office, 900 Technology Blvd, Suite B, Bozeman, MT 59717, (406) 585-2545, William W. Barr, bill.barr@mt.usda.gov, www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs.htm

▪ **USDA Forest Service**

– **State and Private Forestry Grant Programs**

DESCRIPTION: The goal of the State and Private Forestry grant program is to work with public and private partners to help maintain and improve America's forests and rural communities. It provides financial and technical assistance to state and local governments, tribes, private organizations, and other key partners. The programs average \$10 non-federal for every \$1 of federal investment.

CONTACT: USDA Forest Service, Missoula, MT, Nan Christianson, (406) 363-7119

– **Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Program**

DESCRIPTION: Provides assistance to rural communities dependent on natural resources to develop strategies and implement projects which result in community capacity building and long-term social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

AMOUNT: Planning grants are limited to \$5,000, and project implementation grants are limited to \$20,000.

CONTACT: USDA Forest Service, Dave Atkins, (406) 329-3134, www.fs.fed.us

– **USFS Northern Region Recreation and Tourism Strategy**

CONTACT: USDA Forest Service, Larry Blocker, (406) 329-3134

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)

▪ **Planning Assistance**

DESCRIPTION: The Corps of Engineers assists states, local governments, tribes, and other non-federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources.

CONTACT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 215 N 17th, Omaha, NE 68102. Debra K. Brey, Business Development Director, (402) 221-7715, debra.k.brey@usace.army.mil; Maria Luckey, (402) 221-7269, maria.e.luckey@usace.army.mil; Lewis & Clark in eastern Montana coordinator Carol Ryan, Omaha District L&C, (402) 667-7873 ext 3248; National L&C efforts coordinator Jeannine M. Nauss, (402) 697-2532

U.S. Department of the Interior

▪ **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)**

DESCRIPTION: The Fish & Wildlife Service administers a variety of natural resource and wildlife assistance programs and grants to governmental, public and private organizations; tribes; groups and individuals. FWS websites offer grants assistance information including Grants-At-A-Glance, The Federal Aid Grant Application Booklet, and links to grants programs

CONTACT: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, www.fws.gov, www.grants.fws.gov

▪ **Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Sourcebook**

DESCRIPTION: The Department of the Interior has compiled the *Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Sourcebook* web site to assist states, communities and tribes in locating sources of federal, state, philanthropic and foundation support for Bicentennial projects. Topics include community and economic development, cultural resource management/historic preservation, education, infrastructure/transportation, museum and library services, natural resource management and conservation, and recreation. Information in the *Sourcebook* has been divided into four chapters: Federal Assistance, National Foundations, Multi-State Foundations, and State Government Programs and State-Specified Foundations.

CONTACT: U.S. Department of the Interior, www.doi.gov, www.lewisandclark200.gov

- **National Park Service (NPS)**

DESCRIPTION: The National Park Service was created in 1916 as a federal bureau in the Department of the Interior. NPS currently is responsible for protecting 378 park system areas, designated as: national park, national preserve, national monument, national memorial, national historic site, national seashore, and national battlefield park. Montana contains all, or part, of eight park areas: Big Hole National Battlefield, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (with North Dakota), Glacier National Park, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Nez Perce National Historical Park (with Idaho), and Yellowstone National Park (with Wyoming).

CONTACT: National Park Service, www.nps.gov, or www.nps.lecl/grants, for various program requirements and amounts.

- **National Heritage Area Act**

DESCRIPTION: NPS assists and encourages local, state, and federal governments to develop heritage areas.

- **Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program**

DESCRIPTION: NPS offers planning and organizational assistance for local community projects promoting nature-based recreation and environmental, historical, and cultural conservation projects. The Program has had a long involvement in trails projects.

- **Resource Conservation and Development Funds**

DESCRIPTION: A program managed by the federal Natural Resources and Conservation Service, whose funds are designed to encourage state and local governments and non-profit organizations to improve resource conservation by providing 50% matching funds for recreation, including parks and land acquisition.

- **Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Assistance Program**

DESCRIPTION: This program provides funding assistance up to \$100,000 for projects associated with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT) – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

DESCRIPTION: The mission of the U.S. Department of Transportation, established by Congress in 1966, is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets vital national interests and enhances quality of life, today and into the future. Various funding programs are available to improve rural and urban roads which are part of the National Highway System.

CONTACT: U.S. Dept. of Transportation, www.dot.gov, Federal Highway Administration, www.fhwa.dot.gov

- **Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)**

DESCRIPTION: Passed into law in 1998, TEA-21 authorizes highway, highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs through FY 2003. Significant features of TEA-21 are continuation of the initiatives established in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA); assurance of a guaranteed level of Federal funds for surface transportation through FY 2003; extension of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) program; strengthening of DOT safety programs; and investments in research to maximize the performance of the transportation system.

CONTACT: Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21.htm

- **National Scenic Byways Program**

DESCRIPTION: The National Scenic Byways Program recognizes highways that are outstanding examples of beauty, culture, and recreational experiences by designating them as All-American Roads, or National Scenic Byways. State and federal land management agencies submit nominations to the U.S. Department of Transportation for recognition.

CONTACT: Federal Highway Administration, National Scenic Byways, Sharon Hurt Davidson, (800) 4 Byways, www.byways.org. Montana's byway program contact is Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 444-3423, www.mdt.state.mt.us

- **Signing – Manual on Uniform Highway Control Devices (MUTCD)**

DESCRIPTION: The MUTCD contains standards for uniform traffic control devices that regulate, warn, and guide road users along highways and byways in all 50 States. An electronic version of the official FHWA publication is posted on the MUTCD web site [//mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov). Part 2 (signs) of the MUTCD Millennium Edition, and the 2002 edition of the Standard Highway Signs book, contain general and specific sign

Federal Sources

information for regulatory, general, warning and guide signs, specific service (logo) signs, tourist-oriented directional signs (TODS), recreational and cultural interest area signs, and emergency management signs. Symbol sign graphics also are included.
CONTACT: U.S. Dept. of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration, [//mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

▪ SmartGrowth

DESCRIPTION: In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined with several non-profit and government organizations to form the Smart Growth Network (SGN). The Network was formed in response to increasing community concerns about the impacts of growth on local economies, the environment, and community vitality. The Network's partners include environmental groups, historic preservation organizations, professional organizations, developers, real estate interests, local and state government entities. The SGN works to encourage development that serves the economy, community and the environment. It is a forum for raising public awareness of how growth can improve community quality of life; developing and sharing information on smart growth best practices, innovative policies, tools and ideas; and cultivating strategies to address barriers to, and advance opportunities, for smart growth.

CONTACT: Smart Growth Network, c/o International City/County Management Association, 777 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 500, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 962-3582, smartgrowth@icma.org, www.smartgrowth.org

U.S. Department of Commerce

▪ Economic Development Administration (EDA) Loans and Grants

DESCRIPTION: EDA provides grants for planning and implementation, staffing, business incubators, and other economic development programs, and projects. Projects can include infrastructure, rural development through tourism, technical assistance, research, marketing/promotion, etc.

CONTACT: Economic Development Administration, PO Box 578, Helena, MT 59601, (406) 449-5380, John Rogers, edrmnteda@aol.com, www.doc.gov/eda. EDA Denver Region (includes Montana): 1244 Speer Blvd, Suite 670, Denver, CO 80204, 303-844-4715, Anthony Preite, Regional Director, apreite@eda.doc.gov

▪ U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

DESCRIPTION: The Small Business Administration, established in 1953, provides financial, technical and management support to assist businesses with start-up, perpetuation, and growth. SBA provides business loans, loan guarantees, disaster loans, venture capital, and is the nation's largest, single financial backer of small businesses.

CONTACT: U.S. SBA, Federal Building, 10 West 15th Street, Suite 1100, Helena, MT 59626, (406) 441-1081, Michelle Johnson, www.sba.gov/mt/

▪ Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

DESCRIPTION: Sponsored by the Small Business Administration, SCORE comprises 13,000+ person volunteer program with over 750 locations nationwide. Provides technical assistance to small business owners, managers, and potential owners to solve operating problems through free one-on-one counseling and a wide variety of free or low-cost workshops.

CONTACT: Service Corps of Retired Executives, (800) 634-0245, (202) 205-6762

State of Montana Sources

STATE OF MONTANA SOURCES

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

DESCRIPTION: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks seeks to sustain the diverse fish, wildlife and parks resources and recreational opportunities essential to a high quality of life for Montanans and nonresident visitors. Partnerships have been formed with other agencies, local governments, private sector businesses, non-profit organizations, tribes, and individuals to accomplish FWP goals. Several grant programs are available for funding a diversified range of projects. Contact Fish, Wildlife and Parks for requirements and amounts.

CONTACT: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 444-4585, www.fwp.state.mt.us

- **Funding Sources for Trails**

DESCRIPTION: FWP provides funding for trail projects on routes legally designated or otherwise appropriately approved by the land management agency. Private sources of trails funds include non-profit organizations, either directly or indirectly associated with trails, as well as corporate and business sponsors. The Trails Grant Program includes the promotion of responsible trail use, ethics and safety. Recreation trails funds can be used for all types of trails including non-motorized, motorized, multiple use, community, rural and backcountry. Private trail clubs and public agencies are eligible to receive money from this program. The department also provides advice and assistance with trail design and management. Grant Applications can be downloaded from FWP's web page www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/default.asp.

- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

DESCRIPTION: RTP funds may be used for trail development, renovation, maintenance, acquisition, safety, and interpretation. The RTP Program receives a share of the Federal Highway Trust Fund based on an estimate of motorized, non-highway recreational fuel consumption. At least 30% of the RTP funds must be allocated to motorized recreation, 30% to non-motorized recreation, and the remaining 40% is discretionary for diversified/mixed trails use. The Recreational Trails Program allows a maximum of 7% of a state's appropriation to be used for administration.

- **Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) Program**

DESCRIPTION: The OHV program supplies grants to maintain and renovate existing OHV trails and facilities, and to create safety and educational programs. It is funded by OHV decal and registration fees, as well as a portion of the state gasoline dealers' license tax, based on the number of registered off-road vehicles. OHV Program grants may be approved for: trail maintenance and renovation, equipment, signs, labor and administrative costs, trail mapping, and special studies. Information about the OHV Trails program or a grant application packet may be obtained by calling (406) 444-7317, or e-mail rpaige@state.mt.us; or downloaded from www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/default.asp.

- **Snowmobile Grant Program**

DESCRIPTION: The snowmobile grant program supplies funds to provide, maintain, and renovate snowmobile trails and facilities on federal, state, county, and private land, and to create safety and educational programs.

- **Local Government Boating Improvement Program**

DESCRIPTION: This program commonly known as the Boat-In-Lieu (BIL) Program provides FWP with a portion of the boat registration fees paid in lieu of taxes from each of the respective counties. These funds have historically been utilized for the repair and improvement of FWP-managed boating sites throughout Montana. In 2001, a change in legislation provided that a portion of the funding may be granted to and utilized by local government units in Montana for the repair or improvement of public boating facilities. Now called the Local Government Boating Improvement (LGBI) Program, grant applications are accepted from state, county, or municipal agencies. Grant applications and information are available from Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, (406) 444-3750.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

DESCRIPTION: The Land & Water Conservation Fund is a federal grant program encouraging a full partnership between national, state, and local governments in planning and funding outdoor recreation projects. In Montana, LWCF is administered by State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, with federal oversight and assistance by the National Park Service. Grants are provided for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and outdoor facilities. Grants may be used to provide up to 50% of costs and must be matched with non-federal funds. LWCF is a reimbursement program. Any political subdivision of the state, or sovereign Indian Nation, may sponsor a project. This includes incorporated cities/towns, counties, school districts, state agencies, and tribal governments.

CONTACT: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620, Walt Timmerman, (406) 444-3818, wtimmerman@state.mt.us, Kirsten Shelton, (406) 444-3753, kshelton@state.mt.us, www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/landw/select.asp,

Montana Department of Commerce (DOC)

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Department of Commerce is responsible for diversification and expansion of the state's economic base through business creation, expansion and retention, and improvement of basic community infrastructure. DOC works with economic and community development organizations, businesses, communities, governmental entities, elected officials, and the public. DOC services and resources include Business Resources, Community Development, Housing, and Promotion Divisions, Board of Housing, Board of Investments, Facility Finance Authority, and the Board of Research & Commercialization.

CONTACT: Montana Department of Commerce, PO Box 200501, Helena, MT 59620, 301 S. Park Ave., Helena, MT 59601, (406) 841-2700, www.commerce.state.mt.us, Economic Development Programs web site: www.commerce.state.mt.us/EconDev/programs

- **Finance Information Center**

DESCRIPTION: Hosted by the Montana Department of Commerce, www.mtfinanceonline.com is an online center for Montana business finance information. Detailed information about state, federal and local programs can be accessed regarding: business finance, public infrastructure, business tax incentives, local development, tribal resources, housing and technical assistance.

CONTACT: DOC Finance Information Center web site, www.mtfinanceonline.com

- **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**

DESCRIPTION: The SBDC network consists of ten Small Business Development Centers which operate in partnership with local public or private economic development groups, and are funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Montana Department of Commerce and local contributions. The statewide offices offer counseling, training, and technical assistance to Montana entrepreneurs. SBDC offices are located in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Colstrip, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, and Wolf Point.

CONTACT: Department of Commerce, Small Business Development Center, PO Box 200533, 301 South Park, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 841-2700, www.commerce.state.mt.us/EconDev/SBDC

- **MicroBusiness Finance Program**

DESCRIPTION: The MicroBusiness Finance Program finances business projects that would not otherwise be able to obtain financing from other sources. Montana's MicroBusiness Development Corporations (MBDCs) provide business loans combined with training and technical assistance to help business start-ups or expansion. Statewide offices are located in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Colstrip, Great Falls, Havre, Kalispell, Helena, Missoula, Wolf Point, Lewistown and Glendive.

REQUIREMENTS: Montana based business with ten or fewer employees and less than \$550,000 annual revenues.

AMOUNT: Maximum loan amount is \$35,000

CONTACT: Department of Commerce, Small Business Development Center, PO Box 200533, 301 South Park Blvd, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 841-2700, www.commerce.state.mt.us/EconDev/BusFin/Micro

- **Special Events Grant Program (SEGP)**

DESCRIPTION: The Special Events Grant Program strives to create and sustain economic development through support of Montana communities, organizations and tribal governments sponsoring or planning special event projects. Grant funds are provided by the Lodging Facility Use Tax. Eligible project types include attendance events, enrichment activities and promotional events.

CONTACT: Department of Commerce Promotion Division, PO Box 200533, 301 South Park, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 841-2870, www.travelmontana.state.mt.us/OURPROGRAMS/TourismDevEd.htm

- **Tourism-Related Infrastructure Grant Programs (TIIP)**

DESCRIPTION: The Promotion Division Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) provides grant funding for non-profit project sponsors to facilitate the development of new tourism-related products, and the enhancement of existing products to encourage visitors to stay longer in the state of Montana. These developments and enhancements should strengthen Montana's attraction as a tourism destination.

AMOUNT: \$10,000

CONTACT: Department of Commerce, Promotion Division, 301 South Park Blvd, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 841-2795, Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, vbjornberg@state.mt.us, www.travelmontana.state.mt.us/OURPROGRAMS/TourismDevEd.htm

- **Community Tourism Assessment Program (CTAP)**

DESCRIPTION: CTAP is an 8-month "self help" process offered to three communities each year by the Promotion Division with facilitation assistance provided by MSU Extension and the UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. Local community action committees use the process and facilitation services to analyze local resident attitudes about and interest in tourism, their community's tourism potential, gaps in visitor services, and the identification of affordable projects or actions that could strengthen the role of tourism in the local economy.

CONTACT: Department of Commerce, Promotion Division, 301 South Park Blvd, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 841-2795, Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, vbjornberg@state.mt.us, www.travelmontana.state.mt.us/OURPROGRAMS/TourismDevEd.htm

- **Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC)**

DESCRIPTION: CEIC provides a central comprehensive economic and demographic information resource for the Department of Commerce, public and private agencies, and individuals. Primary focus is acquisition, storage, retrieval, and cost effective access/distribution of data. CEIC provides efficient access to U.S. Census Bureau data, offers support for mapping (GIS), and supplies research and technical assistance via CEIC's comprehensive web site.

CONTACT: CEIC, 301 South Park Blvd, Helena, MT 59620, web site www.ceic.commerce.state.mt.us, Dave Martin, (406) 841-2740

State of Montana Sources

Montana Historical Society

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Historical Society, organized by the territorial legislature in 1865, received state approval in 1891 and 1949. MHS is a state agency perpetuated for the use, learning, culture, and enjoyment of the citizens of the state and for the acquisition, preservation, and protection of historical records, art, archival and museum objects, historical places, sites, and monuments, and the custody, maintenance, and operation of the historical library, museums, art galleries, and historical places, sites, and monuments.

CONTACT: Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 444-7715, Arnold Olsen, Director, www.his.mt.gov, or www.montanahistoricalsociety.org

▪ Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission (MLCBC)

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission was created by the 55th Montana Legislature to aid in preparation for the Bicentennial of Lewis & Clark in Montana to be celebrated from 2003-2006. The Commission is responsible for providing the overall leadership and coordination of Montana's Bicentennial observance. As part of their respective missions, the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Montana Department of Commerce Promotion Division, and the Bonneville Power Administration partnered their financial resources to offer grants to qualified communities, non-profit organizations, and tribes for Lewis & Clark-related projects.

AMOUNT: \$25,000 maximum

CONTACT: Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, PO Box 201203, Helena, MT 59620-1203, (406) 443-2109, Clint Blackwood, Executive Director, cblackwood@state.mt.us, Rita Cortwright, Assistant, rcortwright@state.mt.us, www.montanalewisandclark.org

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

DESCRIPTION: MDT's mission is to serve the public by providing a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness, economic vitality and sensitivity to the environment.

CONTACT: Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 444-3383, www.mdt.state.mt.us

▪ Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP)

DESCRIPTION: CTEP projects are transportation related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of Montana's intermodal transportation system. The CTEP program utilizes Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for transportation projects selected by local government agencies. MDT has elected to sub-allocate the funds to the local governments for selection and prioritization of local CTEP projects based on population figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

CONTACT: Montana Department of Transportation CTEP Program, Mike Davis, (406) 444-4383, mdavis@state.mt.us, Thomas Martin, (406) 444-0809, tmartin@state.mt.us. For policy and procedural requirements information, visit www.mdt.state.mt.us/planning/ctep/default.

▪ Montana Foot Path and Bicycle Trail Act of 1975

DESCRIPTION: Administered by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), this act allows the Montana Transportation Commission to spend an average of \$200,000 annually for non-motorized foot and bicycle trails in areas with a demonstrated need for alternate transportation.

CONTACT: Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division, Debbie Alke, (406) 444-2506, www.mdt.state.mt.us/aeronautics

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC)

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, established in 1995, is responsible for sustaining and improving the benefits derived from water, soil, forests, and rangeland. DNRC manages the state's trust land resources, protects Montana's natural resources from wildland fires, promotes conservation of oil and gas. DNRC manages and assists with several grant and loan programs, including renewable resource, reclamation and development, treasure state endowment, and wastewater revolving fund programs.

State of Montana Sources

CONTACT: Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, 1625 Eleventh Avenue, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620, (406) 444-2070, Fax (406) 444-2684, www.dnrc.state.mt.us

Montana Universities and Colleges

■ **Montana Business Connections: The Entrepreneurship Center (UM)**

DESCRIPTION: The Entrepreneurship Center is a central clearinghouse for resources and information on business assistance and economic and community development available. Included on the Internet site are a resource directory database of business assistance and community development resources, a comprehensive business calendar, and the Montana Manufacturers Information System (MMIS).

CONTACT: Bob Campbell, Director, Montana Business Connections, University of Montana, 242 Gallagher Business Bldg, Missoula, MT 59812, (406) 243-4009, Fax (406) 243-2086, www.mbc.umt.edu

■ **Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research (ITRR - UM)**

DESCRIPTION: ITRR, located at the University of Montana-Missoula, serves as the research arm for Montana's tourism and recreation industry.

Funded by the state Lodging Facility Use Tax, ITRR conducts studies on travel, recreation and tourism that are of specialized interest to regions, counties, agencies, businesses and other industry stakeholders. Ongoing research projects monitor resident attitudes, community tourism assessments, and nonresident travel and visitor characteristics. Study results are available online.

CONTACT: ITRR, University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive. #1234, Missoula, MT 59812, (406) 243-5686, www.forestry.umt.edu, Norma Nickerson, Director, itr@forestry.umt.edu

■ **Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER-UM)**

DESCRIPTION: BBER is the research department within the University of Montana – Missoula's School of Business Administration which monitors the state's economic and business conditions. BBER conducts research to determine Montanans' attitudes and opinions regarding economic and social issues, and collects and provides economic and industry data to assist businesses, government agencies and individuals.

CONTACT: University of Montana, Missoula, www.bber.umt.edu

■ **Extension Service (MSU-Bozeman)**

DESCRIPTION: Located at Montana State University-Bozeman, the Extension Service program disseminates research-generated knowledge to individuals, families and communities about improving agriculture, forestry and other businesses. Expanded partnerships with MSU-Bozeman colleges, MSU-Northern, MSU-Billings, the MSU College of Technology, Rocky Mountain College, seven Montana tribal colleges, the University of Montana and other state, federal and private institutions in Montana and the Rocky Mountain Region provide a conduit to increase awareness of Extension Service educational and research resources. Programs and services are available to municipal and county governments, business and industry, public schools, health care providers, the general public, and agricultural/forestry producers.

CONTACT: Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717, (406) 994-4636, [//extn.msu.montana.edu](http://extn.msu.montana.edu)

NONPROFIT/LOCAL SOURCES

Nonprofit/Local Sources

Montana Recreation and Park Association (MRPA)

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Recreation and Park Association consists of recreation and park professionals from the public, private, and military sectors, and is affiliated with the National Recreation & Park Association. MRPA's mission is to support efforts to enhance Montana's quality of life by promoting growth, preservation, and development of recreation services, tourism and parks.

CONTACT: Montana Recreation and Park Association, PO Box 1704, Helena, MT 59624, Gene Blackwell, 406-657-8373, blackwellg@ci.billings.mt.us, or Steve McCool, 406-243-5406, smccool@forestry.umt.edu

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

DESCRIPTION: The mission of the National Recreation and Park Association is "to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people." NRPA offers programs, services, and links to promote development and dissemination of knowledge relative to management of recreation facilities, services and programs, and natural resources and environmental management.

Included is a Facility Inventory Manager (FIM) which NRPA is using to assemble a complete inventory of local recreation facilities in the United States. The FIM can be used to compare local recreation facilities through key variables such as budget size or population served.
CONTACT: National Recreation and Park Association, 22377 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn, VA 20148, 703-858-0754, www.nrpa.org

Nonprofit/Local Sources

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, Inc. (NOHVCO)

DESCRIPTION: NOHVCC is a publicly supported, educational foundation organized for the purpose of promoting safe, responsible, family recreational experiences. The NOHVCO web site was developed as a reference tool to help provide information and access to resources for OHV recreation. NOHVCO is a forum for organizations and supporters of OHV recreation, including facility managers, manufacturers and dealers, businesses, affiliated foundations, clubs, and enthusiasts.

CONTACT: NOHVCO, 4718 S. Taylor Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081, (800) 348-6487, trailhead@nohvcc.org, www.nohvcc.org

Montana Community Foundation

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Community Foundation provides grant funds to Montana community organizations for projects related to the arts, economic and community development, education, the environment, natural resources, and human resources.

CONTACT: Montana Community Foundation, Sidney Armstrong, Executive Director, 101 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 211, Helena, MT 59601, (406) 443-8313, mtcf@mt.net, www.mtcf.org

Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)

DESCRIPTION: The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) is a non-profit association of economic development professionals. MEDA is a certified community of "lead" economic developers, business specialists, government employees, and staff members of affiliated non-profit organizations which promote or foster economic development activities in Montana. Current MEDA projects include PPL-Montana Workshops, facilitating working groups for Revolving Loan Fund and Montana Incubator Network interests, providing education on public policy, and economic development. MEDA's web site includes many useful links to other state, federal, and private resources.

CONTACT: Montana Economic Developers Association, c/o Montana Rural Development Partners, Inc, 118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A, Anaconda, MT 59711, (406) 563-5259, Fax: (406) 563-5476, gloria@mtrdp.org, www.mtrdp.org

Travel Industry Association of America (TIA)

DESCRIPTION: TIA is an authoritative source of research, analysis, and forecasting for the domestic and international travel industry. TIA provides marketing programs, forums, marketing, research, and publications to increase understanding of tourism's impact. A subsidiary of TIA, the State Travel Information Center Directors' Alliance (STICDA), supplies information for state-operated visitor information centers about options for operations, staffing, funding, information distribution, merchandising, research, major improvements, and visitor services.

CONTACT: Travel Industry Association of America, 1100 New York Avenue, NW, Ste. 450, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 408-8422, www.tia.org

National Main Street Center (NMSC)

DESCRIPTION: The National Main Street Center helps downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts to build strong economic development programs through historic preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, NMSC's parent organization, encourages preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture. NMSC provides on-site technical assistance, sponsors workshops and conferences, publishes training materials, and offers a certification program in professional downtown management. The National Main Street Network is an organizational membership program that helps communities learn from each other's revitalization experiences.

CONTACT: National Main Street Center, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 588-6219, www.mainstreet.org

American Planning Association (APA)

DESCRIPTION: The American Planning Association is a nonprofit, public interest, and research organization representing practicing planners, officials, and citizens involved with urban and rural planning issues. APA encourages planning that will meet the needs of people/society more effectively, advocating for policy changes to incorporate planning principles at all levels of government. The Public Information Office of APA educates the media, public, and policy makers on land-use planning issues. Extensive research and publications on planning topics are available via audio conferences, manuals, training workshops, video/audio tape and site.

Nonprofit/Local Sources

CONTACT: American Planning Association, 122 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60603, (312) 431-9100, www.planning.org; Western Central Chapter, Ramona Mattix, c/o Yellowstone County Planning Department, 4th Floor, Parnly Library, 510 North Broadway, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 657-8289, MattixR@ci.billings.mt.us

Local Economic Development Corporations (EDC)

DESCRIPTION: Local economic and community development corporations are located in most areas of Montana. These non-profit organizations strive to improve the economy of their areas by providing assistance to new and expanding businesses, creating income opportunities for residents, and assisting with technical and grant writing.

CONTACT: Contact information can be found on the Montana Rural Development Partners (MEDA) web site membership list, www.mtrdp.org, and Montana Economic Development Directory, www.ecodevdirectory.com/montana.htm

Montana Community Development Corporation (MCDC)

DESCRIPTION: Montana Community Development Corporation is a private, non-profit organization. MCDC's goal is to improve the economy of western Montana by providing assistance to new and expanding businesses, sustain communities and create income opportunities for low and moderate income residents. Services are offered in the following western Montana counties: Missoula County, Ravalli County, Sanders County, Mineral County and South Lake County. MCDC's trained commercial loan officers are available to assist in obtaining the financing needed.

Direct loans can be made from MCDC loan funds, or MCDC can assist with accessing bank loans or government-backed loan funds.

CONTACT: Tracey Spoonemore, 103 E. Main Street, Missoula MT 59802, (406) 728-9234, www.mtcdc.org, tspoon@mtcdc.org

Bonner Development Group, Inc. (BDG)

DESCRIPTION: The Bonner Development Group is a proactive, grassroots organization of west Montana community residents who work cooperatively to promote growth that will achieve a balance between the native beauty of the community environment and the commercial, residential, and industrial development that brings employment, prosperity, and infrastructure support.

CONTACT: Bruce Hall, PO Box 731, Milltown, MT 59851, (406) 258-5268

Glacier Action and Involvement Now (GAIN)

DESCRIPTION: Glacier Action and Involvement Now (GAIN) serves as Glacier County's local economic and community development organization and is organized to assist, where possible, in developing a more vibrant economy for the residents and businesses of Glacier County. GAIN provides technical and grant writing assistance to individuals, units of local government and other organizations. GAIN is intimately involved in working in coalition with others in north central Montana on the development of a comprehensive strategy to attract Lewis & Clark visitors and developments to their part of Montana.

CONTACT: GAIN, Inc., Executive Director, PO Box 1329, Cut Bank, MT 59427, (406) 873-2337

Valier Development Corporation

DESCRIPTION: Valier Development Corporation is an organization dedicated to the general economic growth of the Valier area, including a tri-county Lewis & Clark Bicentennial effort in north central Montana, representing interests of Valier area.

CONTACT: Valier Development Corporation, Reid Stuart, Secretary, (406) 279-3331

Bear Paw Development Corporation

DESCRIPTION: Bear Paw Development Corporation is a private, non-profit organization created for the purpose of administering programs to help improve regional economic conditions in Hill, Blaine, Liberty and Chouteau Counties and the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's Indian Reservations. Bear Paw Development Corporation, a certified Microbusiness Development Corporation (MBDC), provides business loans combined with training and technical assistance to local residents.

CONTACT: Bear Paw Development Corporation, 48 Second Ave., PO Box 170, Havre, MT 59501, (406) 265-9226, Fax (406) 265-5602 www.bearpaw.org

PRIVATE SOURCES

Private Sources

The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

DESCRIPTION: The Trust for Public Land works to protect/ conserve land to improve the quality of life for people and communities, and to protect natural and historic resources for future generations. TPL offers assistance to source financing for parks and open space, helps generate federal, state, and local conservation funding, and promotes the importance of public lands.

CONTACT: The Trust for Public Land, 2610 University Avenue, Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55114, (651) 917-2240, www.tpl.org

Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)

DESCRIPTION: The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, established in October 1998, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in recreational angling and boating and thereby increase public awareness and appreciation of the need for protecting, conserving and restoring this nation's aquatic natural resources. RBFF has the following goals: enable stakeholders to address infrastructure constraints on fishing and boating access; create top of mind awareness campaigns; enable stakeholders to use research and best practices to educate people about fishing, boating and aquatic resource stewardship; provide research basis for making boating and fishing marketing decisions; and educate stakeholders on marketing and outreach using RBFF products, tools and services

CONTACT: Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, 601 N. Fairfax St. Suite 140, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 519-0013, www.rbff.org

Tony Hawk Foundation

DESCRIPTION: The Tony Hawk Foundation seeks to foster lasting improvements in society with an emphasis on helping children. The Foundation supports programs that focus on the creation of public skateboard parks, and other causes. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to facilitate the design, development, construction and operation of new quality skateboard parks and facilities located in low-income communities.

CONTACT: Tony Hawk Foundation, PO Box 1780, Granada, CA 94018, www.tonyhawkfoundation.org

GrantStation.com

DESCRIPTION: GrantStation.com offers a subscription-based, comprehensive, searchable online database for sourcing public and private funding and grants. GrantStation also provides comprehensive instructions for finding and developing funding leads, grant applications and educational tools for securing available funding. Emphasis is on customized grant searches which link nonprofit organizations to current sources funding.

CONTACT: GrantStation.com, (877) 784-7268, www.grantstation.com

Conservation Assistance Tools (CAT)

DESCRIPTION: Conservation Assistance Tools (CAT) is a searchable database of grants, cost sharing, and technical assistance available for natural resources projects in the western United States. It is designed to help local communities, nonprofits, and government agencies reach the information, potential partners, and financial support needed to accomplish grassroots conservation projects in the West. This database has grant and technical assistance sources for 16 western states, including all the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6 States. The database resides on the server of the Sonoran Institute, a nonprofit organization in Tucson, Arizona.

CONTACT: www.sonoran.org

The Kresge Foundation

DESCRIPTION: The Kresge Foundation funds environment, capital campaigns, land acquisition, and arts/cultural programs.

CONTACT: John E. Marshall III, President and CEO, 3215 West Big Beaver Road, PO Box 3151, Troy, MI 48007-3151, (248) 643-9630, www.kresge.org

Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: B&J Foundation funds natural resources conservation, community development, child development, education, and race/intergroup relations projects.

CONTACT: Debby Kessler, Administrative Assistant, 30 Community Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403, (802) 846-1500, www.benjerry.com/foundation

Private Sources

Gannett Foundation, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The Gannett Foundation funds natural resource conservation, community development, literacy, education, and project seed money in communities served by Gannett publications.

CONTACT: Irma Simpson, isimpson@gcil.gannett.com, 1100 Wilson Blvd., 30th Floor, Arlington, VA 22234, www.gannett.com/map/foundation.

Heineman Foundation for Research, Education, Charitable and Scientific Purposes, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The Heineman Foundation funds natural resource conservation, race/intergroup relations, program development, language and linguistics, education, child development, and project seed money.

CONTACT: Brown Brothers Harriman Trust Co., 63 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005

Lannan Foundation

DESCRIPTION: The Lannan Foundation funds land acquisition, rural Native American communities, arts/cultural programs, and literature.

CONTACT: Linda Hughes, Administrator, 313 Read Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, (505) 986-8160

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

DESCRIPTION: The JD&CTM Foundation funds community development, natural resource conservation, and arts/cultural programs.

CONTACT: Richard Kaplan, 140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60603-5285, (312) 726-8000, www.madfdn.org.

The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The Rubin Foundation funds natural resource conservation, cultural/ethnic awareness, and programs for minorities.

CONTACT: Evelyn Jones Rich, Executive Director, 115 5th Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10003, (212) 780-2035, www.sdrubin.org

Montana Power Foundation, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The MPF funds arts/cultural programs, education, community development and conferences/seminars, primarily in areas of company operations in Montana.

CONTACT: William D. Cain, Manager, 40 East Broadway, Butte, MT 59701-9394, (406) 497-2602, www.mtpower.com/community/foundation

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